



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## Anthropologist unravels 10,000-year-old climate change mystery

*Project examines why an ancient Russian people vanished*

By Caitlin Crawshaw

A University of Alberta anthropologist is heading up an international research team that will investigate why an entire Siberian culture of hunter-gatherers vanished between 7000 and 6000 BC.

Earlier this month, Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) announced \$2.5 million for the project that will examine human remains from ancient cemeteries in the Lake Baikal region of Russia. It is thought that climate change could be a key factor in the disappearance of people from this area, as it might have dramatically affected culture, diet and migration.

"There is a very interesting basic research problem: a history of a human culture in this particular part of the region that's very different from other parts of the world and similar to only a few other parts of the world."

— Dr. Andrzej Weber

Lead researcher Dr. Andrzej Weber explained that the project will involve several months of field work in Siberia this summer, followed by extensive analysis of the collected data back at the U of A. The work will include DNA analysis, radiocarbon dating and climate modelling to help uncover the daily life within the culture, the environmental conditions of the time and whether groups that appeared a millennium later were genetically similar to the first peoples.

"There is a very interesting basic research problem: a history of a human culture in this particular part of the region that's very different from other parts of the world and similar to only a few other parts of the world. From these comparisons you can draw conclusions about why human cultures evolved in certain ways,"



Dr. Andrzej Weber takes a photograph while conducting research at Siberia's Lake Baikal.

said Weber.

Weber added that while the project will uncover information about a culture that existed many thousands of years ago, the research is relevant now.

"We're looking at climate change back 5,000 years ago which is very similar to what the north is experiencing today," he said. Weber explained that the research could help predict how places in the north, like Siberia and northern Canada, will change with regard to "animal distribution, habitats, and the potential for traditional lifestyles to continue."

Weber's research team will include 29 anthropology, archaeology, geography,

genetics and climate change experts from universities in Russia, Britain, Canada and the United States, as well as more than 50 graduate students.

"While our project is based in Siberia, we have collaborators from so many countries, that it provides an excellent platform for the flow of ideas, hypotheses, interactions, networking," he said. "This is what international research is really all about - to provide the scientific environment for people to interact, and our project is very friendly in this regard."

The project will also provide an excellent training opportunity for budding scientists, Weber noted.

"We're not just training undergraduate students, we're training everyone: from undergraduate students to graduate students to post-doctoral fellows. We're also helping young scholars to build their careers."

In the end, Weber hopes to discover a great deal about how these ancient people lived and, despite the new technology available, there are always limits to what can be known.

"In archaeology you never get to see the full story, as there are these small pieces to the puzzle. In the best case scenario, most of the picture's still missing - for the rest you need to use your imagination." ■



# Innovative head librarian earns national kudos

*Ernie Ingles recognized for leadership*

By Caitlin Crawshaw

More than six million titles fill the shelves of University of Alberta libraries, making it the second largest collection in Canada. And with its numerous digital collections and initiatives with partner institutions in Alberta, the U of A library system is cutting edge, thanks in part to the efforts of its chief librarian.

Ernie Ingles was recognized this week by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) with the 2006 CARL Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship.

"It's a great honour. I've always thought that peer recognition, particularly within academia and universities, was one of the most important kinds of recognition," said Ingles, who is also the U of A's vice-provost.

Among his many achievements, Ingles has taken a leadership role in many initia-

"The breadth and depth of Ernie's contributions to research librarianship are hard to summarize in a brief citation. He is a leader of great vision with an enormous capacity to create change."

— John Teskey

tives to link libraries from post-secondary institutions province-wide, which provides students with greater access to resources from other institutions. These enterprises include the NEOS Library Consortium, The Health Knowledge Network, and the upcoming Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library, a multi-million dollar venture funded by the provincial government.

"It's one of the largest and most unique initiatives in North America. Basically what it does is bring all of the colleges, smaller institutions and so forth, up to the same standards of access that again the U of A would have. So everybody benefits in terms of the amount of resources their students have access to," said Ingles.

According to U of A Provost Dr. Carl Amrhein, Ingles is "one of North America's leading chief librarians."

"This award is recognition of the central role he has played in university research libraries adjusting to the universities supplied by the digital world."

Amrhein added that Ingles has also ensured that the U of A's library system will continue to thrive.

"Ernie has positioned our library so that we continue to receive major donations of books and manuscripts through the Books and Records Depository facility. Many of our peer institutions have stopped collecting, because they didn't make proper allowances for space," he said. "We, in fact, are now in a very enviable situation in being able to build our collection by acquiring other collections."

Ingles, who has been working in research universities for more than three decades, has also published widely as a



Ernie Ingles' accomplishments include spearheading efforts to link the U of A's library resources with that of other institutions and positioning the U of A to expand its collections beyond the capacity of most Canadian university libraries.

bibliographer. In addition to this honour, Ingles was a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2003.

"The breadth and depth of Ernie's contributions to research librarianship are hard to summarize in a brief citation. He is a leader of great vision with an enormous capacity to create change," said CARL President John Teskey.

According to Amrhein, the quality of the U of A's libraries benefits the university as a whole.

"We have one of the top-ranked teaching university research libraries in North America, and it provides out students and faculty and visitors an incredible research resource. And Ernie has played a central role in that." ■

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## Research reveals that young adults can find their way

*Psychological well-being improves after adolescence*

By Phoebe Dey

The kids are all right. At least, they will be.

Although young adults are faced with a plethora of life choices, they seem to be coming to terms with themselves and their lives in their twenties, according to new University of Alberta research that shows psychological well-being improves after adolescence and girls improve faster than boys

Dr. Nancy Galambos from the U of A's Department of Psychology followed a sample of the same cohort of people over a seven-year period and looked specifically at how 18-25-year-olds make the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Few studies have tracked changes in psychological well-being in this age group.

"I see these results as good news," said Galambos. "We can expect the average 18-year-old to show improved mental health over the course of the next seven years. I think it is important to note, though, that these are average trends, and we cannot ignore the fact that some mental health problems first appear in the early twenties and rates of clinical depression are quite high in this age group. So a certain proportion of young people will not do well during this period."

"Emerging adulthood is a period during which many young people are learning to do what they are supposed to do to reach maturity – they are learning to cope with challenges in an effective manner and to handle their emotions in a healthy way."

— Dr. Nancy Galambos

ing this period."

Another interesting finding was that improved psychological well-being reduced the gender differences that first appear in adolescence. As expected, women showed significantly higher levels of depressive symptoms and lower levels of self-esteem at age 18 than men, but on both indicators women improved at a faster rate than did men by age 25, bringing

the two genders closer together.

"The fact that girls improved faster than boys - or young women improved faster than young men - was a complete surprise," said Galambos. "I really did not know that this would happen."

The research team, made up of Galambos, the U of A's Dr. Harvey Krahn and PhD student Erin Barker, looked at the effect that different backgrounds had on psychological well-being. They found that although parent education was unrelated to depressive symptoms and expressed anger at age 18, depression and anger decreased fastest among emerging adults with two university-educated parents.

"Emerging adulthood is a period during which many young people are learning to do what they are supposed to do to reach maturity – they are learning to cope with challenges in an effective manner and to handle their emotions in a healthy way," said Galambos. "Of course, they can get thrown off by life's losses, such as unemployment or loss of friendships, but their development can also be enhanced by life's gains, such as getting married or establishing new friendships.

This research appears in the current issue of *Developmental Psychology*. ■



# Fear of ‘cooties’ keeps shoppers from the till

Consumers dislike items that appear previously handled

By Ryan Smith

New research shows shoppers are much less likely to buy an article of clothing if they think another person has already touched it.

“Consumer contact with products may actually be a double-edged sword. Prior research has shown that people like to touch products, but now we’ve found that they really don’t like it if someone else has touched them first,” said Dr. Jennifer Argo, a professor in the University of Alberta School of Business.

Argo and her colleagues constructed an elaborate experiment in the U of A bookstore that involved more than 200 participants. Argo instructed participants to enter the store and look for a specific T-shirt. The participants believed they were sent to evaluate marketing aspects of the store, but they were, in fact, being set up for a survey to see if they wanted to buy the T-shirt.

Using text messaging with store employees, Argo arranged for the participants to be exposed to one of a number of scenarios involving the T-shirt, ranging from learning that there was one shirt left in the store and another customer was trying it on, to learning that a shirt was hanging on the rack.

Argo found that not only were shoppers much less inclined to buy a shirt if they believed someone else had already touched it, but they also indicated the value of the product had been diminished if they knew it had been touched. The researchers also determined that “disgust” was the underlying reason for the participants’ opinions, and that the level of disgust increased as the perception of the extent to which the article had been touched or tried on also increased.

“Consumer contact with products may actually be a double-edged sword.

Prior research has shown that people like to touch products, but now we’ve found that they really don’t like it if someone else has touched them first.”

— Dr. Jennifer Argo

The results of the research were published recently in the Journal of Marketing.

“The power of the effects of touch surprised me, especially that it would carry over into how much people said they would spend to buy the shirt. People devalued it even when there was no actual contamination, just the perception that it had been touched.”

Argo believes retailers could learn from this study.

“I would eliminate any cues that indicated someone has touched displayed articles,” she said. “I would keep them folded and refold them quickly, and I’d get them out of change rooms quickly and eliminate change racks.”

“I think this research shows that shoppers display irrational behaviors,” Argo added. “We come into contact with objects that other people have touched all the time, but I guess we never outgrow the simple notion of cooties, especially when we are reminded of them.” ■



Caitlin Crossman

In an experiment conducted at the U of A Bookstore, Dr. Jennifer Argo discovered that participants would be less likely to buy a T-shirt if they perceived it to have been touched by other participants.

# Universities sign co-operation agreement on public health

Collaboration first in Canada

By Iliaren Byles

Alberta’s top three universities are gang-ing up on illness and injury.

The Universities of Alberta, Lethbridge and Calgary announced earlier this month the creation of a first-in-Canada collaboration aimed at increasing public health initiatives. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the institutions’ presidents at a video-linked news conference in all three cities with Premier Ralph Klein, Health Minister Iris Evans and Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard participating.

“It’s good to be here to recognize such an important agreement between three of Alberta’s leading universities,” said Klein. “This MOU has the potential to change the future of public health care in our province. Never before in Canada has a coalition of this magnitude and expertise joined forces to strengthen the public health sector.”

U of A President Dr. Indira Samarasekera said focusing on public health – on disease and injury prevention and wellness – is increasingly important. “This pan-Alberta coalition will help to develop Alberta’s capacity to promote health and security across the entire province and contribute to the sustainability of our health care system,” she said. “I think our knowledge will go beyond Alberta as a result of being on the cutting edge, and help Canada and the world.”

All of the major causes of death and disability are either preventable or can be substantially reduced through public health interventions. Public policies that

help Albertans make healthy lifestyle choices can significantly reduce the incidence of high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes and several forms of cancer.

Dr. Roger Palmer, interim dean of the new U of A School of Public Health, said public health initiatives have done more in recent history to create a health society than almost anyone realizes.

“Public health has been the place where so many great changes have been made in the overall health of our population. Clean, safe food, clean drinking water and immunization programs have made a bigger difference to the ongoing health of our society than almost any activity on the treatment side,” he said. “So, while medicine is important and treatment of illness is important, public health – the prevention of illness, the ways in which we make sure our society stays healthy and well, lives without injury . . . is the centre of what we’re trying to do.”

Working together is the best way to make a difference, said U of C President Dr. Harvey Weingarten “A concerted health promotion effort and the need to collaborate across the province are critical to the future of our health system. This agreement positions Alberta and its universities on the global frontlines of health innovation, with an emphasis where it must be – on the individual, families and communities.”

With a common commitment to innovation and excellence in public health edu-

“This (agreement) has the potential to change the future of public health care in our province. Never before in Canada has a coalition of this magnitude and expertise joined forces to strengthen the public health sector.”

— Premier Ralph Klein

cation, research and practice for the health and security of Albertans, the U of L, the U of C and the U of A intend to align their strengths for the benefit of students and the citizens of the province, states the MOU.

“Together, we will jointly plan our respective programming and specialized facilities in order to offer well-defined career paths and a greater choice of options to students to better prepare them for the needs of the Health Regions and their career objectives. We will enrich these offerings with our complementary capacities in teaching, research and development expertise and facilities. Focusing on the broad spectrum of learning in the field of public health and the social determinants of health, we have made a commitment to align and strengthen our institutions through the growth and quality of our public health related efforts.” ■



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U of A President Dr. Indira Samarasekera.



# Room to Breathe

## Faculty of Arts space program delivers

By Melissa Boisvert

Cubicles in hallways. Two people in offices meant for only one. Researchers bumping elbows with other researchers. The University of Alberta is a beautiful, nearly 100-year-old institution, but space challenges are the reality for any place as old as, and expanding as quickly as, the U of A. Like many other faculties, Arts has had to find ways to cope with the problem, but now an official endorsement by General Faculty Council's Facilities Development Committee has Arts administrators feeling that a solution is in sight.

Len Rodrigues started looking at U of A's space constraints in November 2003 when he was first hired as the U of A's Architect in the Planning and Infrastructure Department. Just how tremendous the university's needs were "became evident pretty fast," he recalls. Rodrigues noticed that the Faculty of Arts' space needs had not been reviewed in several years and thought it clearly needed to be investigated.

Arts administrators agreed. The faculty's aged buildings were desperately in need of repair, and could no longer effectively support the number and variety of activities taking place in the faculty.

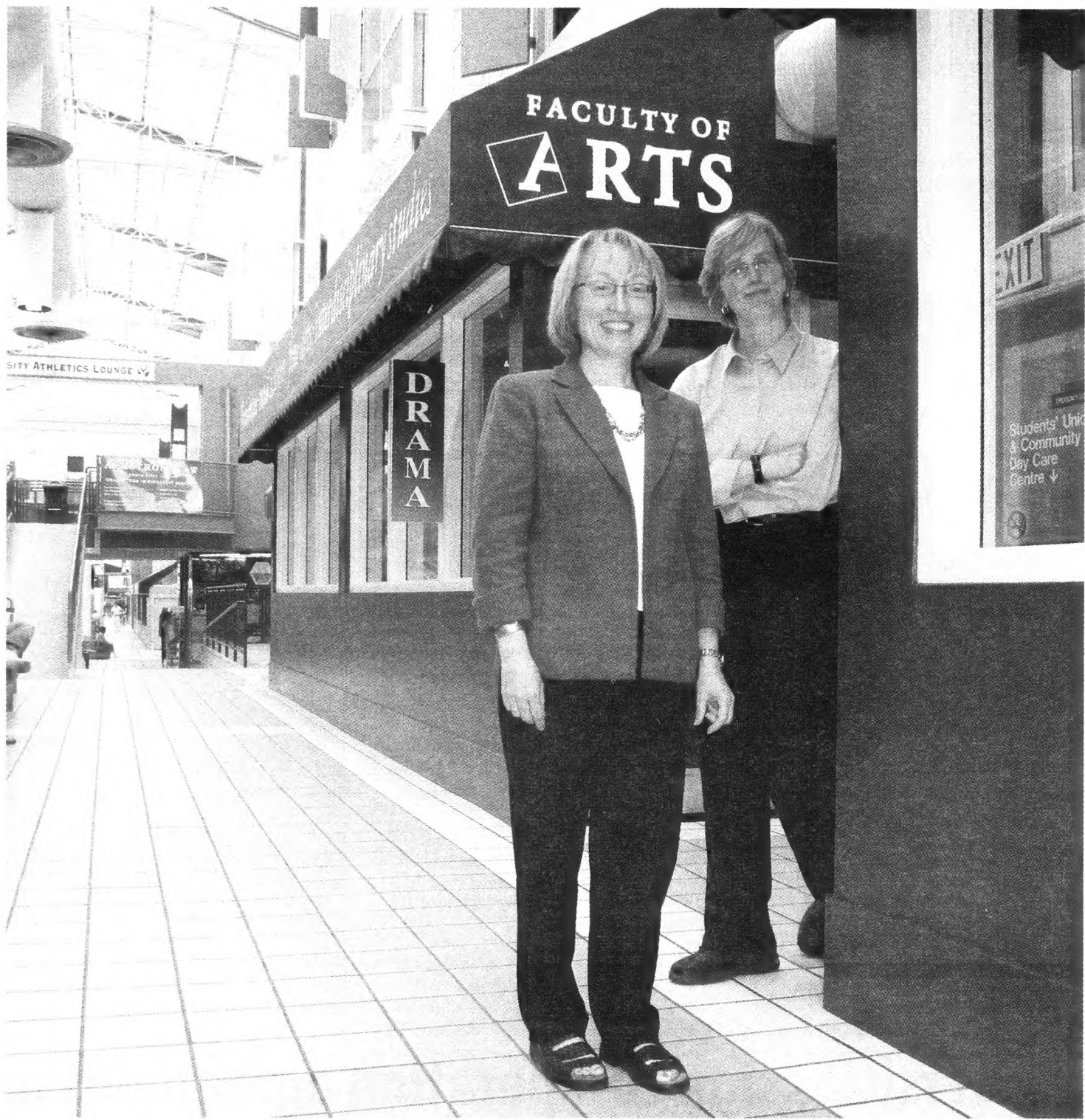
The problem was so severe that, in July 2004, Arts created an associate dean portfolio responsible for facilities development. Colleen Skidmore knew it would be a challenge when she was first appointed to the role, but had no idea just how immense the task would be.

Working closely with the Office of the University Architect, and in particular planning officer Lorna Baker Perri, Skidmore created the General Space Programme team, including Arts' project co-ordinator, Sheila Cameron and Barbara Shipman of Barbara Shipman Architect. In order for Planning and Infrastructure and the Office of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) to consider allocating more space to Arts, the committee had to prove the faculty was using its existing space as efficiently as possible. Thus began the group's investigation into the use of space, how it could be used more efficiently, and areas where more space was required to accommodate current and future needs.

For a year, the team consulted with chairs, directors, and administrators across the faculty. The committee used information gleaned from the consultations to develop the final General Space Programme proposal.

The General Space Programme focuses on three growing areas when determining future space requirements: graduate program enrolment, faculty numbers, and research intensity – areas where increases are likely. For example, the Faculty of Arts predicts it will see 1,200 graduate students enrolled by 2010, approximately 300 more than the current number. And as Arts continues to develop its research and teaching facilities, it looks forward to attracting more faculty members who identify the U of A as a top research institute.

Increasing size, however, is not the faculty's only concern. Classes, teaching methods, and research practices are changing, and often, these activities no longer fit into the traditional image of 'arts'. Citing the example of computer intensive research studios used by programs such as the Baikal Archeological Project, the Text Analysis Portal for Research (TAPoR) Project, and the Orlando Project, Skidmore is quick to point out how the faculty's greatest advancements are also presenting some of the greatest challenges: "We've never had dedicated research space in any great quantity before. With new technologies and research, research protocol has changed. We desperately need dedicated and appropriate research space." The number of principal investigators in the faculty has more than doubled since 2001, and



Colleen Skidmore and planning officer Lorna Baker Perri at the Faculty of Arts' Research Hotel in HUB Mall. The faculty has completed a year-long initiative to assess its use of space and plan for future growth. The faculty has also been granted space in the Civil Engineering Building and Pembina Hall.

external grant funding has increased from \$4.3 million to \$6.4 million over the same period, making the space issue even more pressing.

Some would say that so much growth, so many students, and so much research funding is an enviable problem. But for the U of A, the solution is not simple. Closely bordered by businesses, private homes, and the river valley, the university has little room to grow. So rather than focusing on expanding, the Faculty of Arts has exercised its creativity.

The General Space Programme focuses on re-thinking and re-allocating space in current Arts buildings. Applying the concept of 'joint space', programs that use a particular room or lab for only part of the day or week might be paired with another program that can make use of the same space at other times. Or, in some cases, programs might be able to use the same space at the same time, as long as the area is appropriate and sufficient for both groups.

In the case of projects with projected end dates, a new, unique 'hotelling' model will be applied – they will be granted temporary homes in a 'Research Hotel', such as the one currently under development in HUB Mall. Once each project is completed, it will move out to allow another one to move in. This new model simply allows the faculty to plan for future projects by bringing them in when appropriate space is available.

The program points out an additional benefit of the 'joint space' and 'hotelling' models: shared space gives occupants an opportunity to "foster collaboration,

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**"We've never had dedicated research space in any great quantity before. With new technologies and research, research protocol has changed. We desperately need dedicated and appropriate research space."**

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– Colleen Skidmore

interdisciplinarity, curiosity, respect, and creativity through intellectual exchange." And just to make sure that the new shared spaces really will cultivate a positive atmosphere of collegiality, a section of the report entitled Space Allocation Principles establishes guidelines for efficient and effective use of space.

The program's focus on the use of space is not limited to quantity. Recommendations to improve quality are also included, as many Arts buildings require significant upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems, as well as to interior finishes.

The programme proposes a great number of improvements to current space use, offering hope to faculty, staff, and students frustrated by space constraints. Nevertheless, it also determines that, no matter how much existing spaces are reconfigured or how many people are moved around, more space is needed. The faculty currently occupies 36,078 square metres in 13 locations across campus, and the program estimates an additional 19,811 square metres of usable space will be required over the next four years, to bring the faculty's space total to 55,889 square metres.

The General Space Programme was approved by the General Faculty Council's Facilities Development Committee on March 17. Julian Martin, the committee's deputy chair, said the document "clearly articulates, in a way I've never seen before, the sheer variety and complexity of academic and support programs in the Faculty of Arts."

Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf said the General Space Programme is "a great leap forward" for the faculty. "It is the first comprehensive document combining current utilization with projections for future requirements to meet the aggressive expansion of our teaching and research activities over the next academic planning cycle. It is also a model of how careful facilities planning that involves the faculty, individual departments and research institutes, and the university central administration, can result in a clear and unambiguous case for space."

The Facilities Development Committee's endorsement means the faculty has demonstrated its dedication to maximizing the use of its current facilities. It also means Arts is now in a position to locate and obtain additional space as re-organization and evaluation of space takes place across campus. No time has been wasted: 1,000 square metres in HUB Mall, Pembina Hall, and the Electrical Wing of the Civil Engineering Building have recently been allocated to the faculty.

The Faculty of Arts' General Space Programme is available online at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/pi/pdfs/WebGeneralSpaceProgrammeFacultyofArts.pdf> ■



# U of A new home for autism expert

*Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum is an internationally renowned autism researcher*

By Ileiren Byles

One of the world's leading autism experts is eager to help the University of Alberta take a leadership role in researching the mysterious condition.

"I think that what I can do is develop something very new and very exciting," said Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum during a press conference at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Centre on May 12.

Zwaigenbaum will join the Stollery Children's Hospital and the U of A in August. He is currently at McMaster Children's Hospital and McMaster University in Hamilton. Zwaigenbaum will see patients and families at his new centre, located at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

"Capital Health is committed to exploring and applying new treatment methods for autism, the most common neurological disorder among Canadian children," said Dr. Terry Klassen, Chair of the University of Alberta's Department of Pediatrics. "Dr. Zwaigenbaum's cutting-edge research will continue to improve the lives of thousands of children and families and add to the Stollery's role as a leader in complex care and a resource for all Canadians."

Zwaigenbaum is known internationally as the author of a 2005 breakthrough study that made him the first to pinpoint specific behavioural signs in infants as young as 12 months that can predict, with remarkable accuracy, whether a child will develop autism.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is diagnosed when there is a severe impairment in the development of a child's social communication, and stereotyped behaviour, interests and activities. ASD affects an estimated 190,000 Canadians.

Zwaigenbaum's work with Capital Health's Stollery Children's Hospital as director of the Centre for Excellence in Autism Research, and as a professor of pediatrics at the U of A, will include studying the unique differences in early brain development in infants who are subsequently diagnosed with autism. His research program will help to understand

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— Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum

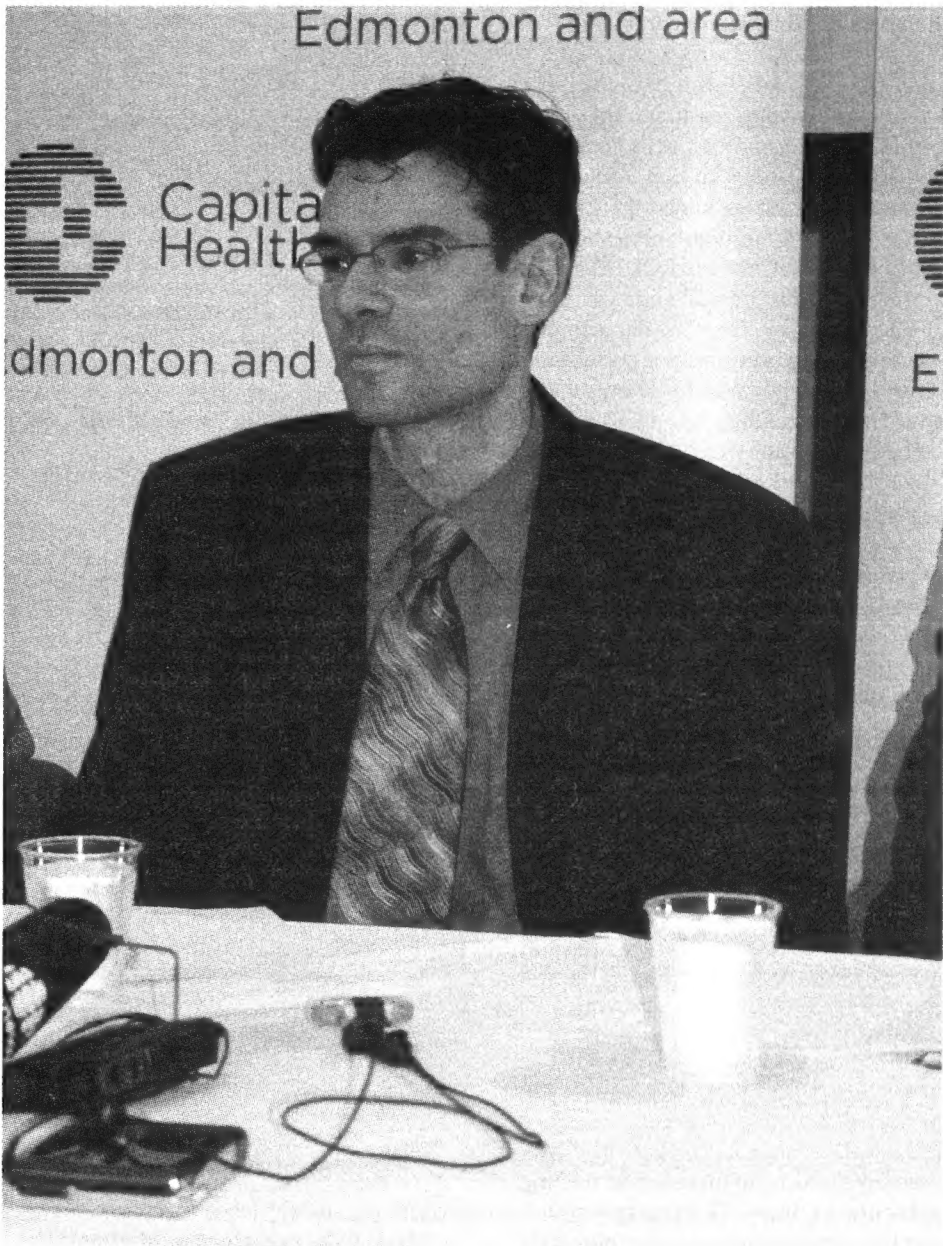
the origins of autism.

"I believe one of the only ways to innovate and develop new approaches in dealing with child health care is through cutting-edge research," said Klassen. He spoke about hearing Zwaigenbaum at a conference in San Francisco. "Here was a clinician-scientist who was on the top of his game and the world was truly taking note of that. It is through his research that we know autism manifests itself in the first year of life, something that five, 10 years ago would have been considered heresy."

For his part, Zwaigenbaum is excited about the energy in Edmonton's research and clinical community.

"It's really clear that there's an incredible synergy among the Stollery Children's Hospital, University of Alberta, the Glenrose Rehabilitation Centre," he said. "I was absolutely delighted to have a chance to come to Edmonton at a time when there's such an interest and enthusiasm about developing the scientific program in neurosciences, and specifically the focus and support for autism clinical work and research work."

Zwaigenbaum brings more than \$1 million in Canadian Institutes of Health Research grants for his ongoing work in



Dr. Lonnie Zwaigenbaum will join the U of A and the Stollery Children's Hospital this August.

early intervention and searching for the genetic links to autism. "I'm really looking forward to bringing to Edmonton these national research programs aiming at understanding autism early in life, understanding the causes of autism and

understanding really, what's going to make a difference in the lives of children and families," he said. "And I'm excited about helping the University of Alberta and the Stollery Children's Hospital take a national leadership role in these endeavours." ■

# Big hockey fan creates smallest Oilers logo

*Nano-sized logo the width of a human hair*

By Ileiren Byles

It gives a whole new meaning to 'hockey hair.' The smallest Edmonton Oilers logo in the world is just barely the width of a human hair – the Ryan Smyth jokes almost write themselves.

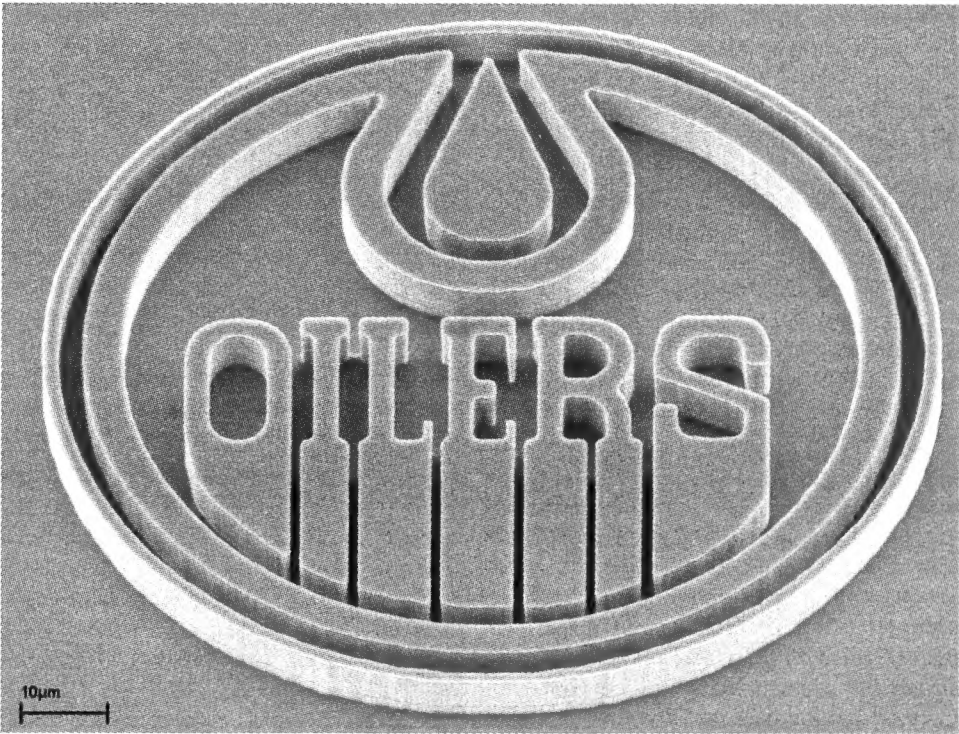
Kristy Beinert, a technician in the University of Alberta's NanoFab Lab, has created Edmonton's team sign in miniature. The logo is 0.0001 metres wide; the oil drop in its centre is less than one-tenth that size.

"The logo is basically just a tiny dot, and you have to squint to see that," said Beinert. "You could fit 16,000,000 of them into the regular logo that's on the players' jerseys."

NanoFab is an open-access micro and nano fabrication facility for the university community and researchers from across the country. The micro and nano fabrication equipment there is unequalled in Canada, with more than \$18 million worth of process equipment - and some loyal fans of the Oilers. The team earned its way to the NHL western conference final for the first time since 1992.

"I come from a long line of Oilers fans," laughed Beinert. "Back in the glory days, we used to get to stay up late and watch the playoff games, even when they went into overtime. It was always exciting."

And when the Oil squeaked into the



This Edmonton Oilers nano-logo could fit into the team jersey logo 16,000,000 times.

playoffs this time around, Beinert decided to make a statement on a project she was working on.

"The rest of the pattern is for releasing cantilevers and other release devices, but

this was just for the novelty. We decided to throw a couple fun things on the pattern in addition to the functional stuff," she said. "We've basically just patterned a little tiny Oilers logo onto the silicon wafer and then

"I come from a long line of Oilers fans.

Back in the glory days, we used to get

to stay up late and watch the playoff

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overtime. It was always exciting."

— Kristy Beinert

etched it down a little bit with some chemical processes to give it a bit of depth for the image. It wasn't anything that was supposed to be functional, it was just for fun."

Beinert is hoping her mini-logo packs some major playoff mojo. "I try to be optimistic, but try not to get my hopes up either," she said before Wednesday's game. "But, if we take it tonight we'll go all the way. That's my overall prediction."

Perhaps there's a market of Oilers micro-implants for those fans who want to say they've really got the Oilers in their blood. "I don't know how many people would go for that, but you could....," laughed Beinert. ■



# MPs join in celebration of research funds

**U of A receives \$1 million for two new Canada Research Chairs**

By Folio Staff

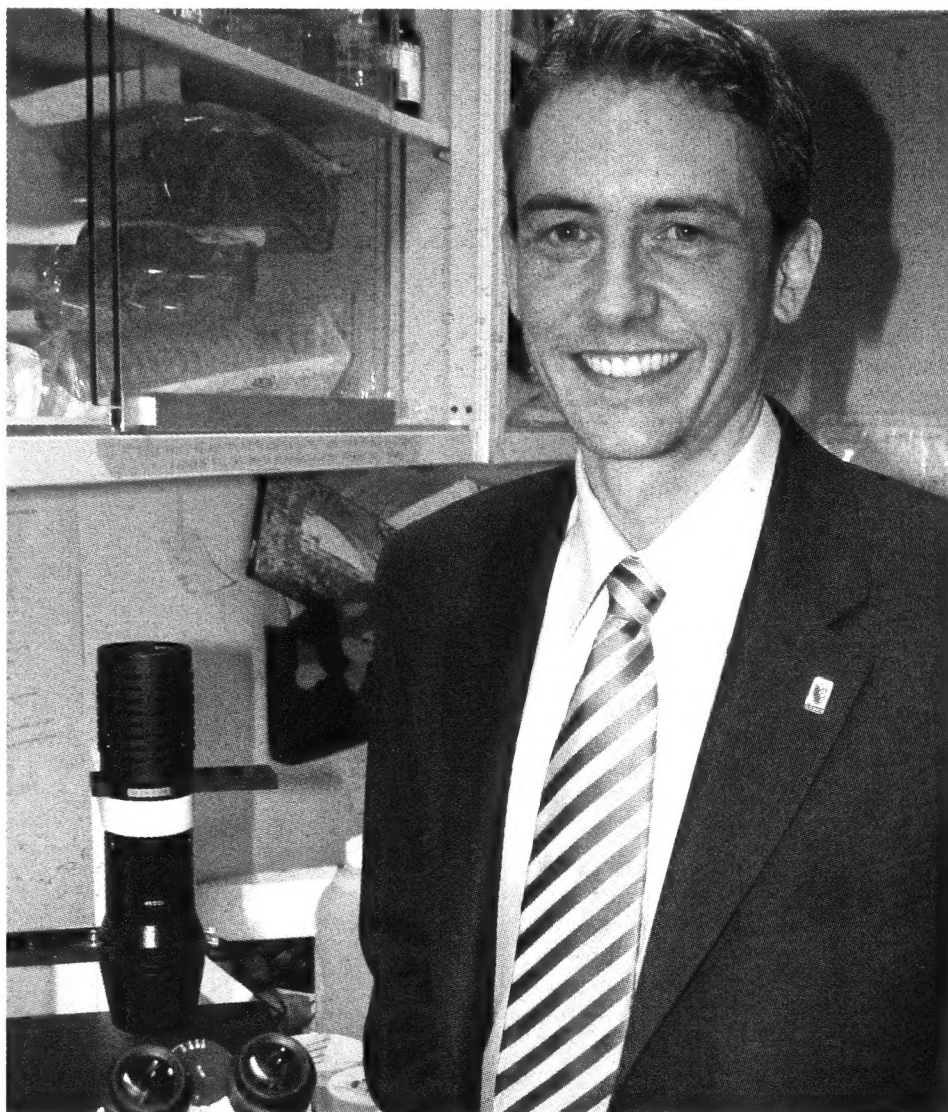
Members of Edmonton's contingent in Ottawa made their way to the University of Alberta this month to help celebrate some major research funding.

On May 23, Edmonton MPs James Rajotte, Rahim Jaffer, Ken Epp, Mike Lake and Laurie Hawn joined the U of A in celebrating \$1 million for two new Canada Research Chairs (CRC). Dr. Alidad Amirfazli from mechanical engineering and Dr. Jason Dyck, from the departments of pediatrics and pharmacology, will each receive \$100,000 per year for five years to further their research.

The presentation of the CRC funds to the U of A marks the Government of Canada's commitment to research in vital areas such as health and technology, said Canada's Minister of Industry Maxime Bernier. "The important investments made in university research have re-energized our campuses and given the country's top researchers - our Canada Research Chairs - the support they need to fully realize their innovative ideas."

The University of Alberta is proud to be a leader in such research, said President Indira Samarasekera. "We have tremendously talented researchers at the U of A, and CRC support enables them to be the leading source for breakthrough discoveries, which can transform entire fields and give birth to new ones."

With the CRC funds, Amirfazli will devote part of his time as CRC in Surface Engineering to understanding how to engineer surface properties through various topological or chemical changes, and to use these new surfaces to understand wetting and motion of drops. This research could affect the consumer demand for high-performing products such as water-shedding windows and the development of tinier



Dr. Jason Dyck is now a Canada Research Chair in Molecular Mechanisms of Cardiac Metabolism.

technology such as lab-on-a-chip.

Dyck, CRC in Molecular Mechanisms of Cardiac Metabolism, studies how the heart functions during heart disease or

following a heart attack. His work will ultimately lead to the design of new drugs that help treat or prevent these life-threatening conditions.

"We have tremendously talented researchers at the U of A, and CRC support enables them to be the leading source for breakthrough discoveries, which can transform entire fields and give birth to new ones."

— President Indira Samarasekera

This is the kind of research that will make a difference to Canadians now and in the future, said Jaffer, MP for Edmonton-Strathcona.

"Their research will advance knowledge in engineering and the health sciences, and will most certainly contribute to the well-being of all Canadians. With their contributions, Canada will continue to be recognized as a country of innovation and knowledge," he said. "The investment we are making today will make a difference in the lives of all Canadians tomorrow. It is through advancements in science and technology that we will continue to grow and prosper. Our researchers have made Edmonton proud, Alberta proud, and indeed Canada proud."

The U of A now holds 94 Canada Research Chairs valued at \$104 million. The CRC is a \$900-million Canadian government program aimed at supporting outstanding researchers to help them advance their careers among world-class colleagues and gain access to top graduate students and state-of-the-art research facilities. When fully implemented, the program will support 2,000 chairs across the country. The CRC program invests \$300 million a year to attract and retain some of the world's most accomplished and promising researchers. ■

## Professor forges a path for immigrant women

**Researcher warns communities that many women aren't planning for retirement in Canada**

By Ryan Smith

Many immigrant African women living in Alberta are not planning ahead with a clear idea of their own futures, said a University of Alberta professor who hopes to help the women live better, more comfortable lives in their adopted home.

"Most women come here with the idea that they will live here for awhile, work, send money home and eventually return to Africa to live comfortably in their old age," said Dr. Philomina Okeke, a professor in the U of A Department of Women's Studies. "But the reality is that many of them end up staying here - especially if they have children."

It's not a concern that these women change their minds and want to stay, Okeke said. The concern is that once these women and their families change their minds and decide to stay, it has become too late from them to properly plan for their retirement in Canada, as many of them fail to invest in social security and buy homes and life insurance.

Okeke has compiled her knowledge of African immigrant women in Alberta through surveys and interviews with more than 1,000 immigrant women and community leaders over the past three years. Before she writes a book about her findings, she shared them with African-Canadian community leaders and immigration services leaders from across Alberta on May 13 at the University of Alberta Conference Centre.

"When I would conclude my interviews, many of the women would say, 'Make sure you tell us what you find', and that's what I'm doing now," said Okeke, who has lived in Canada since she left

Nigeria in 1989 to begin doctoral studies at Dalhousie University.

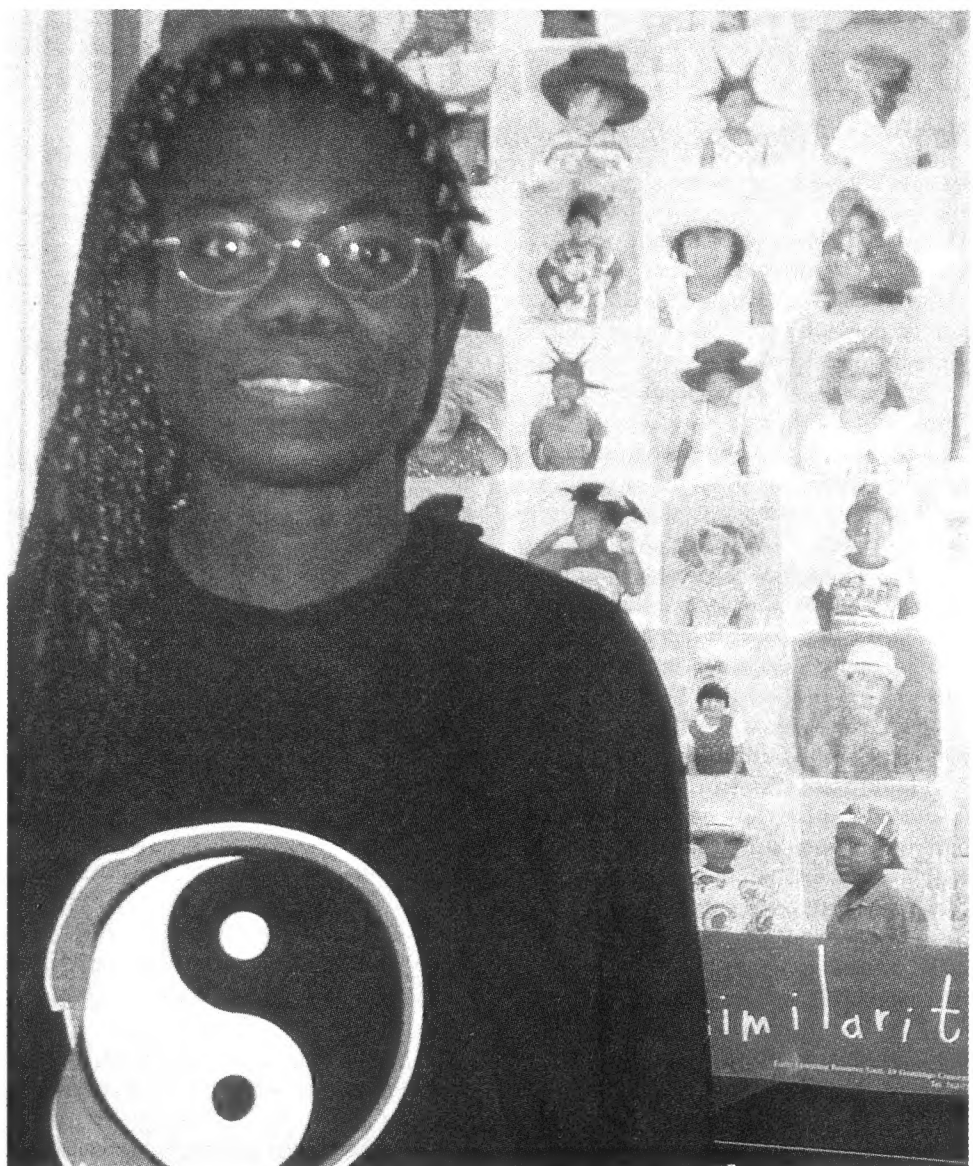
Aside from the financial and security struggles, African immigrant women in Alberta also struggle with their identities, said Okeke, whose research is sponsored by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

"Some of these women said that they didn't know they were 'black' until they arrived here," Okeke said. "Back home they would identify with their own ethnic and cultural backgrounds, whether they are Somali, Kenyan or Nigerian. But here it doesn't matter what their skin tone is, they are all grouped as being black, along with people from the Caribbean and elsewhere."

"These women also feel that they are often discriminated against, especially when they are looking for jobs," Okeke said. "It's hard to say if it's true or not - if there is discrimination it could be due to their gender, which is the most common form of discrimination - but either way these women say that they struggle with these issues."

Okeke also stressed that African immigrant women in Alberta, in spite of the many challenges they face, are generally strong and resilient, many of them coming from areas where poverty, war or HIV/AIDS, or combinations of these, are rampant.

"These women are in a new space, creating new lives - I call them new women in a new world," she said. "It's important for us to learn about their experiences so that we can help them to mobilize and integrate properly and make good lives for themselves and their children." ■



Women's studies professor Dr. Philomina Okeke says many women immigrants end up retiring in Canada, though they haven't planned for retirement.



# Student loans need more room for food costs: study

Research finds that students can't afford proper nutrition

By Bev Betkowski

Federal and provincial student loan programs need to allocate more money for the costs of basic nutrition, according to a new University of Alberta study.

"The allocation for food in student loans is insufficient," said Dr. Noreen Willows, a professor of nutritional science at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics and lead author on the study, which is published in the spring 2006 issue of the Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research.

More money needs to be allocated by the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) and by the Alberta Student Loans Program (ASLP) to ensure students have enough to purchase a basic healthy menu, Willows said.

"Based on the study's findings, students reliant on financial assistance likely have insufficient money for a nutritionally adequate diet and are at risk for food insecurity – the limited or uncertain availability of good-quality food or being unable to obtain the food in socially acceptable ways," Willows said.

Based on allocations in 2003, the year the study was conducted, ASLP set aside \$365 per month for the joint cost of food, clothing and personal care, while the CSLP allocated \$196 for food each month. However, the study found that the actual menu cost for students living away from home was as high as \$296 per month and often exceeded the amount allocated by the CSLP. Once money was budgeted for food, the ASLP funding allocation remaining for clothing and personal care item expenditure would be small.

The no-frills, seven-day menu developed for the U of A study was based on Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating, and included staples like bread, cereal, juice, fruit, soups, eggs, milk, fish and meat. The menu was priced for skilled and unskilled shoppers at a grocery store near to campus and a discount-style grocery

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– Dr. Noreen Willows

store further away, which required a vehicle or access to public transit.

The unskilled shopper was assumed to purchase costlier national brand-name items, small sizes and fluid milk and juice. The skilled shopper was assumed to buy more economical generic foods, bulk sizes, frozen juice and powdered milk.

Menu cost varied by store location and by shopping skill level, but the results demonstrated that, even for skilled shoppers following an economical diet, more allowance was needed in student loans for food.

Willows suggests federal and provincial student loan programs need to provide at least 150 per cent more for food costs, and that the CLSP's current method of estimating food costs using a nutritious food basket underestimates the amount of money a student needs to support a healthy menu each month.

Based on 2003 figures from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, the cost of a nutritious food basket for males was \$186 and \$136 for females aged 19 to 24 years, below the cost of the sample menu used in the study.

"The food basket measure may be an



Bev Betkowski

Nutritional science professor Dr. Noreen Willows believes federal and provincial student loan programs should provide at least 150 per cent more for food costs.

inadequate tool to inform loan policy," Willows said. The basic menu used in the study didn't take into consideration unhealthy but tempting foods like snacks or alcohol.

As well, the loan allocations for food

don't cover margins for a student's level of knowledge about smart shopping, whether they have storage room for bulk food, and whether they have roommates who consume the food without contributing financially. ■

# Overcrowded ERs put patients at risk, says researcher

Survey suggests the health-care system, not patients, at fault for overcrowding

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Overcrowding in hospital emergency rooms is a national problem that could have dire effects on patient health, according to a study authored by a University of Alberta researcher.

"It's a sign of problems in the health-care system – a barometer of the systemic problems," said Dr. Brian Rowe, the study's lead author.

The survey of overcrowding in emergency rooms was conducted by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health. It found that 52 per cent of physicians directing emergency departments affecting overcrowding as a problem negatively impacting care. It also indicated that the problem is more common in larger hospitals (those with at least 50,000 emergency room visits a year) than small facilities.

And this has serious consequences for patients.

"There's pretty good anecdotal evidence that patients who have delayed care suffer adverse effects," Rowe said. "Every emergency department's got some patient with a heart attack who didn't present with typical features, who's out in the waiting room for five hours, and then runs into problems; a patient with a fever who ends up septic."

"I think it's bad care if you have a migraine headache and you're vomiting and it takes us six hours to see you. You've suffered needlessly for interventions that



Dr. Brian Rowe thinks the problem of emergency room crowding reflects broader problems with the health-care system.

we have very good evidence for. Delay in pain management, delay in antibiotic therapy for known infections, delay in stroke treatments and heart attack treatments – those kinds of things are happening."

Rowe explained that this is "a complex, multi-factorial and system-wide problem" and that there is no single cause of the problem. Contributing factors include greater severity of emergency cases and

elderly patients needing admission to the hospital, bed closures and inappropriate use of current beds with chronic-care patients, Rowe noted.

He added that misuse of emergency rooms is not a major factor leading to overcrowding.

"Unnecessary emergency room visits are over-estimated as a cause of the emergency department overcrowding problem.

"Every emergency department's got  
some patient with a heart attack  
who didn't present with typical  
features, who's out in the waiting  
room for five hours, and then runs  
into problems; a patient with a  
fever who ends up septic."

– Dr. Brian Rowe

Our own research suggests that most patients present to the emergency room after attempting other options. I think rather than pointing the finger at patients, we should look at improving the current system."

Rowe said the study is important because it provides hard data.

"People have been fired in Canada for saying overcrowding is affecting outcomes."

Ultimately, patients deserve better care, says Rowe.

"Almost everybody goes to the emergency department at some point in their life, and you should get timely access to care." ■



## Frisbee lives

*The ultimate game of fetch for humans*

By Tom Murray

You'll never find Scott Wierstra's Frisbee lying, forgotten, on the top of his roof.

For Wierstra, Frisbee is more than a way to pass the time on a summer day, or a way to entertain Fido. The technical support staff member in the University of Alberta Department of Biological Sciences is an ultimate Frisbee fanatic. He first picked up the sport (known casually as 'Ultimate Frisbee,' although copyright reasons officially shorten it to 'Ultimate') in 1998 with his partner Kiersten, taking to the relaxed nature of the sport.

"It's the sort of thing that people get into initially because they can play with their spouses," he said. "University students in particular seem to really like it."

The game roughly approximates a mix of football, soccer, basketball and netball, and is of course, played with a Frisbee. The roots of the game can be traced back to a few teenagers in the late 1960s, but not until the '80s did players establish a governing body and a general set of rules. According to Wierstra, Ultimate has been germinating in Edmonton for a number of years, only truly coalescing in the early to mid-'90s when a few pioneering locals put together the first pick-up games. These early players formed a league of four teams in 1996, expanding to 12 in 1998, and now numbering more than 50 in 2006.

While he's still active locally and on the board of the Edmonton Ultimate Players Association, Wierstra stopped taking part in outside tournaments when he blew out his knee a few years back.

"It was usually somewhere between 10 and 15 tournaments a summer," he said. "We would go to cities like Vancouver, Seattle, Regina, places like that."

If Wierstra has allotted less time for the sport, his wife has picked up the slack – he proudly notes that the U of A women's team has become a powerhouse in Canada.

"That's partially because we've had a number of imports in the past few years," he said.

"We get a lot of grad students that actually come to Alberta because of the Ultimate scene. They'll pick universities based on the quality of the team, and because of that we'll get people that might have gone to Calgary."

The influx of ultimate players has obviously been good for the local team – the U of A Women's squad has won four in a row at the Canadian University Ultimate Championships. That's an impressive achievement, especially when you consider that Ultimate at the highest levels is an unfunded sport.

"You usually have to take care of your own travel expenses when playing nationally or internationally," Wierstra said. "That's how it is all over; in Sweden they had a nationally funded men's team for six or seven years, but that's about it."

It's at least partially because the sport isn't beholden to outside pressures that the players tend to be quite possessive of the game. While team sports become more and more elitist, even at the junior level, Ultimate still has a very egalitarian feel to it, Wierstra explained. Even in many international tournaments there's a section set aside for pick up games as a nod to the strong grassroots support of the game. It's also by and large still self-monitored – no referees except in certain high level competitions – with players instead depending on notions of sportsmanship and self-regulation.

The lack of government recognition



Scott Wierstra (orange hat, black shirt) and his teammates at an Ultimate practice earlier this month.

"We get a lot of grad students that actually come to Alberta because of the Ultimate scene. They'll pick universities based on the quality of the team, and because of that we'll get people that might have gone to Calgary."

– Scott Wierstra

and commercialization hasn't stopped ultimate from growing in popularity, however.

"In the U.S. it's gigantic. One of my friends is trying out for the Seattle open team, and there are 150 guys trying out for those three spots," he said.

One of the sports biggest draws is its social scene, he added.

"Most people get into the social aspect at first and then some of them might move on to become more competitive, but not everybody. Every tournament will have a Saturday night party, and the people that are there just for fun will go hard on Saturday night, while the more competitive will take it easier.

"Teams also mix it up a lot – there are a lot that are made up from various cities for tournaments, just for fun. Other team sports tend to be structured on that matter, and wouldn't allow it to happen, but in Ultimate it's a normal thing." ■





# Alberta's hidden gems

Profs wax poetic about Alberta's natural places

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Frank Lloyd Wright might have put it best when he wrote, "Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

University of Alberta professors are doing just this: studying nature, loving it, and spending a large chunk of their spare time in the great outdoors. *Folio* recently caught up with a handful of U of A nature nuts to ask them about the best places in Alberta.

For paleontologist Dr. Phil Currie, Dinosaur Park in Southern Alberta is a clear winner.

"It really is magic – it's not just the fact that we find dinosaurs there ... it's just a fantastic place to be during the summer months in particular, but anytime really. A lot of people like the mountains better, but to me, the badlands are more accessible. You can never scale to the top of every mountain peak, but every badland peak you can."

The World Heritage Site is located two-hours east of Calgary, and is a place where the renowned dinosaur expert spends a good deal of time each year doing field work. But though well-acquainted with the spot, Currie says the area is perpetually changing shape.

"Every time you walk in the badlands, you turn around and look back and it doesn't look the same. Basically, it's a place where you can really get lost, and sometimes that's a bad thing, but sometimes that's a good thing too," he said.

Just as stunning as the physical geography, says Currie, is the strange and wonderful weather patterns of the area.

"Dinosaur (park) is one of those places where you get these big thermals developing during the summer months. And what happens is that all this hot air rises off the badlands, and you see clouds coming in. The clouds will hit the edges of the badlands and literally melt. Usually you'll see the edge of the cloud system being pushed up into the air and disappearing," he said.

"It's really magic when you get these enormous prairie thunderstorms going 300 degrees around the park, with either blue sky or stars overhead."

For oncologist Dr. Linda Pilarski, it's hard to pick a favourite. But she names Ptarmigan Cirque in Kananaskis, Wilcox Pass in the Icefields Parkway and Edith Cavell Glacier as a few of the province's most beautiful areas.

Ptarmigan Cirque, for instance, is a remarkable mix of rock and greenery, easily accessed by a short 2.5-km hike. "It's relatively short, so you get all kinds of spectacular stuff without much effort," she said.

The area is defined by a "massive, circular depression that's been carved out by a glacier," and lies within a beautiful mountain meadow.

"It dwarfs you – it's such a massive amount of rock and this huge circular hole, as it were, in the mountain. It is just spectacular."

Wilcox Pass is another trek with beautiful scenery that doesn't require a grueling hike. As the area lies on the Icefields parkway, hikers can see both the Columbia Icefields on one side and Maligne Lake on the other.

"You go up through the forest ... and then you come up to a mountain meadow, and as you keep climbing through the meadow, you get views across to the Columbia Icefields," said Pilarski.

"And again, the views are spectacular, and there's little rivers running through, little birds hopping around, and the flow-ers are wonderful."

Pilarski's third favourite spot, Edith Cavell Glacier, is comparatively beautiful, but has quite a different feel to it.

"Once we were there in October, and the whole area of the glacier had cracked off, and it was as though giants had thrown marbles about the size of a house," she said.

"And they were just scattered there, and you could hear the glaciers creaking and cracking – it was both scary and magical. Wonderful. It's got to be the most beautiful place in the world. In fact, all three of these places are competitive anywhere in the world."

Long-time women-in-science advocate Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour's favourite scenic spot is a place called Thunder Lake, about 15-Km west of Barrhead, AB.

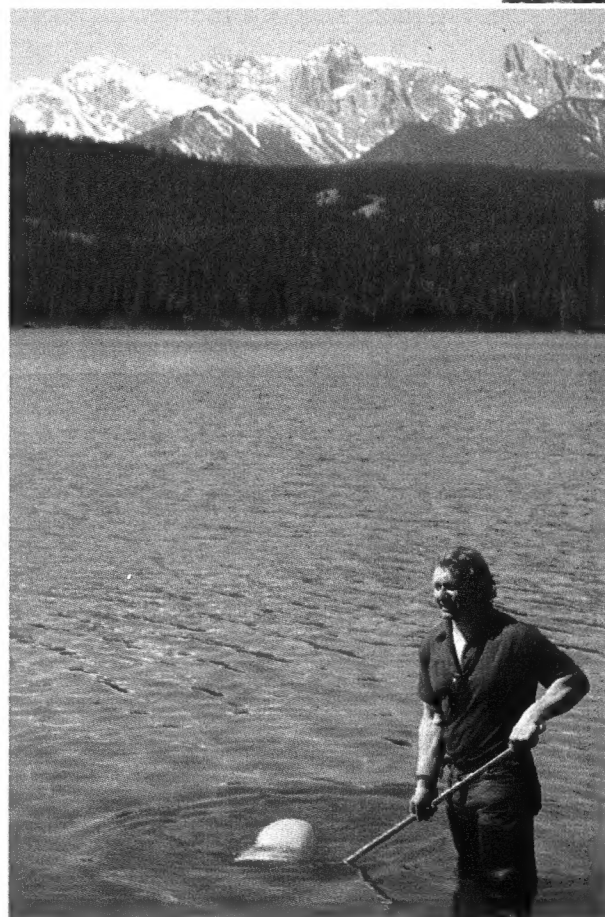
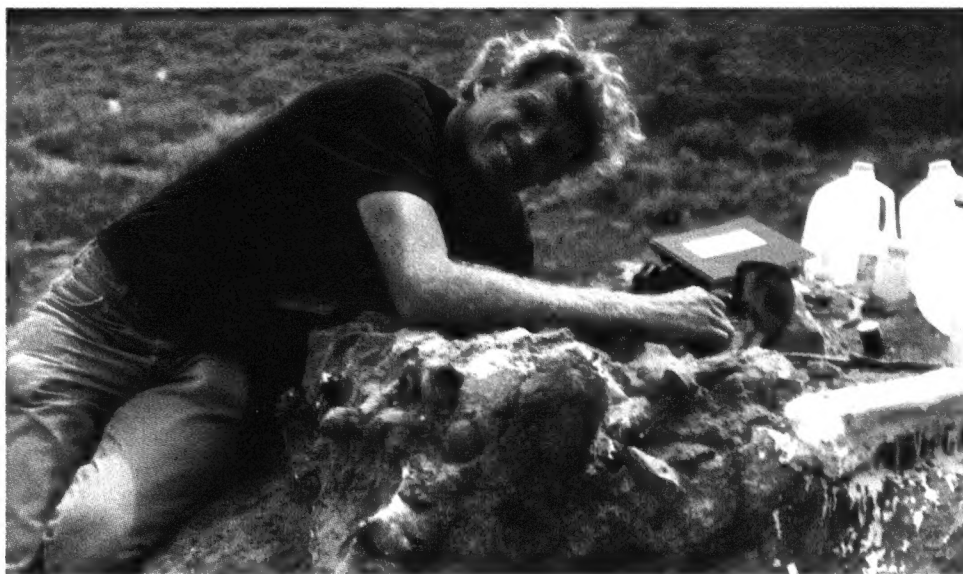
"It's called Thunder Lake because the thunder seems to come down between the hills, and down across the lake. So you could watch these thunderstorms coming, and then working their way across the lake," said Armour.

The area has special meaning to Armour, who has spent time there since her days as a graduate student.

"The reason it's one of my favourite spots, is because we used to camp there. We'd go with friends and fish in the morning, then cook the fish over a campfire and have it for breakfast. These are things one never forgets."

One of her favourite memories of Thunder Lake involves listening to the sounds of birds – like Hermit Thrushes.

"In the evening you can listen to them



(Top) Dr. Phil Currie hard at work in Dinosaur Park; (Above) Dr. Linda Pilarski in Ptarmigan Cirque; (Far left) Dr. David Schindler in Jasper's Talbot Lake; (Left) Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour soaks up the sun at Thunder Lake.

calling to one another from trees – you can't see them, they're small and they tend to be high in the trees," she said.

"Another memory is sitting at the side of the lake and listening to the loons, lots of loons on the lake, and their mournful cry. And seeing the deer, who always ate our bushes. We eventually had a cottage up their for a while, and the deer ate the little evergreens that we put in."

Renowned environmentalist Dr. David Schindler is hesitant to reveal his favourite spot in Alberta, a well-hidden gem with

few visitors.

"It's got just a fantastic wildlife community on it," he said, of Chip Lake, 100-Km west of Edmonton.

"It's got eagle nests in the island, it's got berry crops to pick, it's got a whole bunch of little islands occupied by different species of birds – there's a heron island, and a gull island and so on."

The lake, he adds, is only easily accessed by motorboat for two weeks in the spring time, so few people bother to make the journey.

"It's a huge lake so the average person isn't ambitious enough to get around on it, since you need to use a canoe."

All year long, the area is home to an abundance of wildlife. In summer, Schindler admires the moose cooling themselves in the shallows, and the water birds – including pelicans and ospreys – that call the area home. In spring and fall, hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese use the lake as part of their migration routes.

"It's a really beautiful place of the sort that many people would drive right by." ■



# City-Region Studies Centre will explore idea of civil cities

*U of A-based centre to examine how cities evolve*

By **Ileiren Byles**

If businesses were run in the way of most cities, managers would be fired, according to the keynote speaker at the launch of the new City-Region Studies Centre (CRSC).

John Lorinc, a Toronto journalist who specializes in urban affairs, politics, education, culture and business, delivered a talk in Edmonton on May 17, entitled - Daring to Will the Future: Introducing the City-Region Studies Centre.

“If a business were run like a municipality that developed according to tradition post-war suburban development patterns, managers would have been fired ages ago,” said Lorinc. “Those cities essentially are a very inefficient way of using municipal infrastructure, which is extremely expensive. When you use a denser development plan, you get more use, more value, out of your investment.”

What cities need are new ideas, said Lorinc, and new ideas are what the City-Region Studies Centre is about. The CRSC, based at the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Extension, is a partnership of university, government and business leaders aiming to assist municipalities, communities and enterprises in making the Edmonton region an example of social and economic vitality, good governance and good civic life.

“It really is a mark of a mature city to have that discussion with itself,” said Lorinc. “Managing an urban economy is more about picking up the garbage and making sure the water runs smoothly, although those are really important things. But managing growth, creating an urban development which is environmentally sustainable, more compact, more dynamic, more lively - these are difficult things to work through because we’re accustomed to a type of urban development since the end of the Second World War and the developers do what the developers do because it

“If a business were run like a municipality that developed according to tradition post-war suburban development patterns, managers would have been fired ages ago.”

— John Lorinc

sold yesterday.”

Creating a dynamic environment that offers choice to residents means more than a certain number of restaurants or supermarkets available, he said.

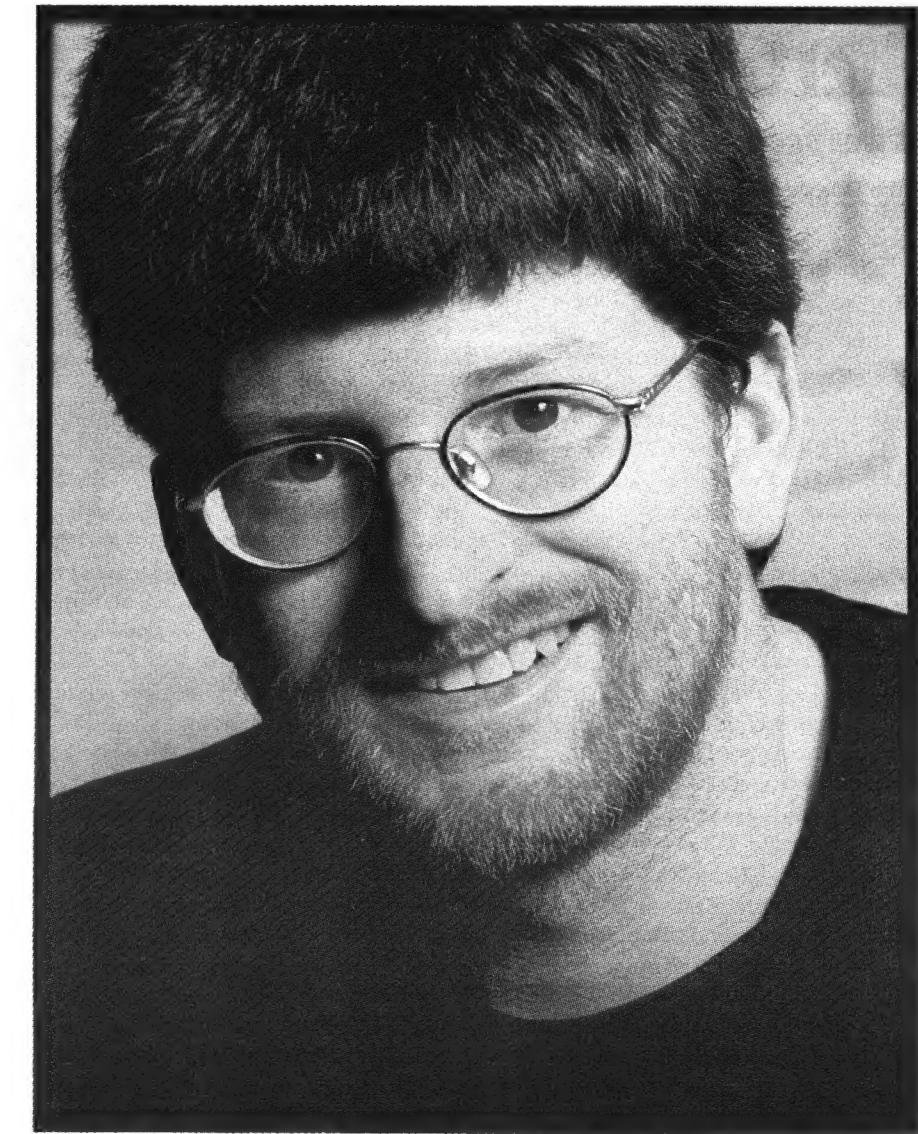
“My argument is that urban areas, complete urban areas, have to provide a very broad range of choices in the way they function and the way they’re built to meet the diversity that Canadian cities are increasingly demonstrating. Basically the question is how do we marry this amazing diversity in our cities to the way the cities actually function.”

For example, Lorinc wonders if, when planning transportation routes and neighbourhoods, city planners consider the fact that Canada has an aging population which may be less inclined to drive.

Canadian cities have a lot of unique qualities and challenges when compared to other municipalities around the world, said Lorinc. Lower crime rates, less tendency to create areas of urban sprawl and less racial tension make it easier for municipalities to find ways of collaboration, but reduced municipal autonomy and a high reliance on property taxes for income creates barriers.

“I believe we have the highest immigration rate, per capita, of any country in the world, with the possible exception of Australia,” Lorinc added.

“A positive challenge, in my view, is that Canada is really becoming a very cosmopolitan country and immigration really



Supplied

Toronto journalist John Lorinc spoke at the opening of the City-Region Studies Centre on May 17.

connects us to the world in all sorts of interesting, dynamic and challenging ways. There are problems, but creating diverse and socially integrated cities is a great chal-

lenge, and if Canadian cities are up to it, it puts us in a good position . . . because the cities become a microcosm of what goes on in the rest of the world.”■

## The legend of the Watkins man

*In rural Alberta, the door-to-door salesman was a welcome visitor*

By **Bev Betkowski**

Do you remember the Watkins man? If so, Pauline Atwood wants to hear from you.

Atwood, both a nursing instructor and an education student at the University of Alberta, is combining her skills to compile material for a book she hopes to write about the Watkins man, and the hold this legendary team of salesmen had over rural Alberta. She’s looking for Albertans who can share their memories of a Watkins man, or even better, an actual salesman from back in the day.

Bearing suitcases full of products including spices for farm cooking, exotic lemon pie filling and ointment for sore cow udders, Watkins men travelled the dusty country roads of Alberta in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, visiting farms to show their wares. But they represented an important part of rural life, Atwood said. “This is about the people who cleared the land, worked on the farms – the people who were self-sufficient.”

Atwood, a nurse for 35 years, began hearing about the Watkins man years ago while talking with elderly patients. She’d hear about visits from the Watkins man, when all work stopped and he was put up for supper and given a bed for the night. Besides household remedies, the Watkins man was also a purveyor of news.

“A Watkins man was a special arrival, because people didn’t have lots of company,” Atwood said. “He would bring news from the city and news of what was happening in the community around them.”

Atwood, whose ancestors homesteaded in the area west of Stony Plain, began her informal research on this traveling figure four years ago, sandwiching it between

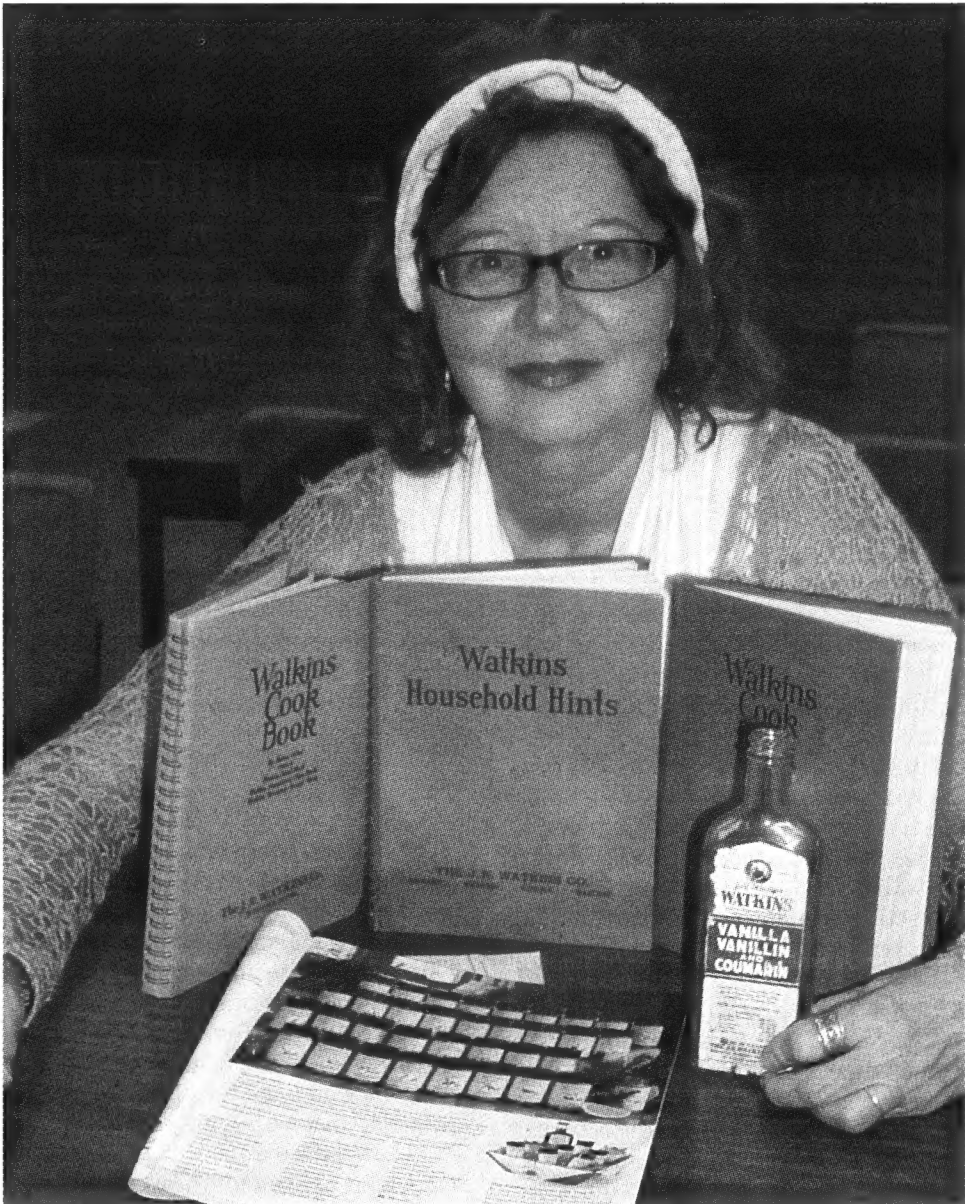
“A Watkins man was a special arrival because people didn’t have lots of company. He would bring news from the city and news of what was happening in the community around them.”

— Pauline Atwood

her work as an instructor and as a student at the U of A. Her research course as part of a masters program at the U of A honed her interest in learning more about rural Alberta history. Those research skills combined with all those tales she’d heard as a nurse, compelled her on her quest to find out more.

When people think back to visits from the Watkins man, they recall life on the farm at that time. Atwood’s research to date has included visits to museums, and she’s currently in the midst of interviewing people about their memories of the Watkins man, but it’s a task she wished she’d started years ago. “I’m working against time, trying to interview elderly people.” There are too many valuable stories about rural history in Alberta that are lost when the elderly pass away, she believes.

The Watkins man is one travelling salesman who serves as an anchor for people’s memories. “People got excited about having visitors, about the latest news, about somebody different. The Watkins man was somebody who had a different vocabulary and was not from their church or their culture. This takes us back to a quieter time, a time when little things made a difference.” ■



Bev Betkowski

Pauline Atwood and a few common Watkins products.



# Lifelong learners back on campus

*Program offers summer school courses – for adults*

By **Ileiren Byles**

“It doesn’t matter what your age or physical abilities are, if your brain is working and stimulated, it keeps you out of Medicare and out of the health-care system. It’s just good for you.”

– Allison Wells

Earlier this month, the cafeteria in the University of Alberta Education building was buzzing with chats on film techniques, Canadian foreign policy, Roman history - and Dean Martin.

More than 250 ‘older adults’ were back at the U of A for the three-week Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA) program which ran from May 1-19 at the U of A campus. Each year, ELLA offers a banquet of classes, ranging from geology to urban ecology and management. Myrna Grimm spent her mornings listening to classical music in teacher Robert Klakowich’s Mozart’s World class before heading down the hallway to Larry Pratt’s class, Philosophers of War.

“It’s a great way to start your morning. The music clears your head before you take on the heavier subject matter,” said Grimm.



Participants in the Edmonton Lifelong Learning Association Ballroom Line Dance class strut their stuff.

ELLA is a volunteer organization in partnership with the U of A that offers a variety of non-credit courses to adults 50 years and older in liberal arts, fine arts, science, and the humanities, as well as emphasizing physical and mental well being. “Well, we say it’s for ‘older adults,’ but I don’t know that we’ve ever turned anyone away,” chuckled Marg Stephen,

an ELLA student and chair of ELLA’s program committee.

The program has been volunteer-run for more than five years, with volunteers choosing classes and teachers for each year’s sessions. Students pay a \$20 membership fee and a \$185 registration fee, which entitles them to take as many as five classes, plus sessions with Writer-In-

Residence Caterina Edwards. There are also lunch hour keynote speakers, who address topics from animal-assisted therapy to how to communicate effectively with your doctor to, yes, Dean Martin.

“We try to provide as wide a variety of courses as we can to appeal to a wide audience,” Stephen said. “Music has always been a popular component of our programming, as has the literature and visual arts.”

But one of the biggest selling points of the ELLA classes is the friendships that are built over the three-week period. “You can take one course on the weekends and then you just disappear afterwards, but I think that when you’ve set aside three weeks to take part in something like this, you really build camaraderie.”

Allison Wells, Grimm’s classmate in the afternoon Ballroom Line Dancing class, would agree. ELLA classes led to her participation in weekly discussion sessions on Greek literature and political sciences to a group of fellow dancers who get together for regular lunches.

“The discussions can get quite heated,” she laughed. “But it’s very invigorating.”

And that’s the point of the whole thing, said Stephen.

“It doesn’t matter what your age or physical abilities are, if your brain is working and stimulated, it keeps you out of Medicare and out of the health-care system,” she said. “It’s just good for you.” ■

# Video games may hold key to preventing obesity

*Visiting researcher favours educational video games over school-based intervention*

By **Ileiren Byles**

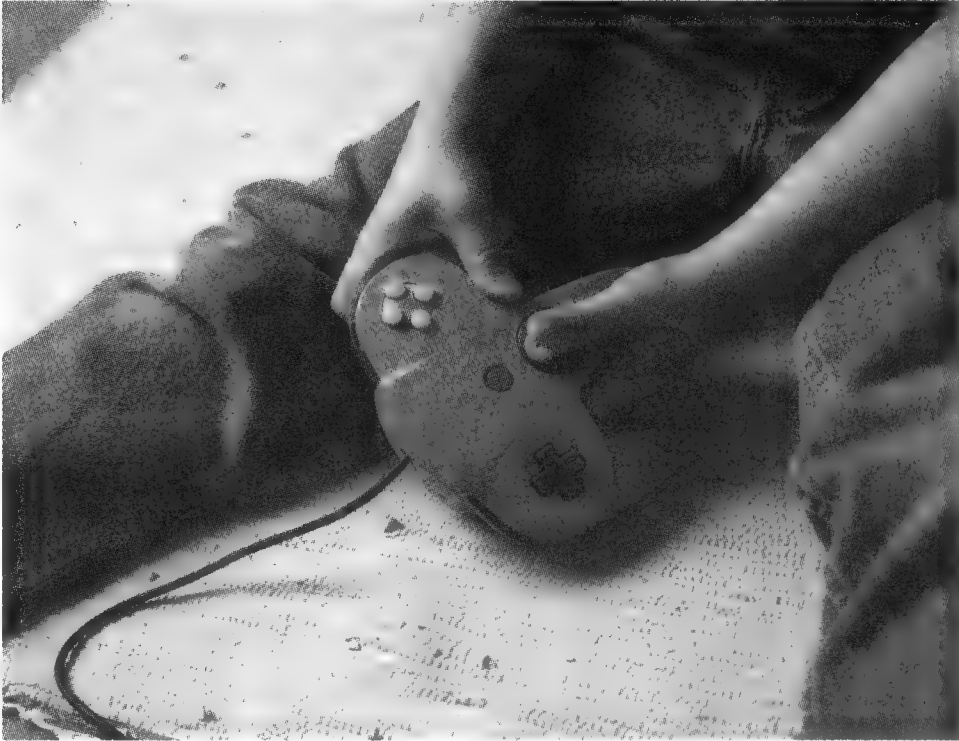
Keeping kids away from television and computer screens might be the starting point for keeping kids healthy, but one researcher believes specially designed computer games could help children make better dietary choices.

Dr. Tom Baranowski, a professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, is one of the world’s leading scholars in children’s behavioural nutrition. He spoke at the University of Alberta on May 18 about why children choose the foods and physical activities they do, as well as his work in designing and evaluating programs to help improve their choices.

However, in his talk, titled School-based obesity prevention: A blueprint for change, Baranowski said that often-contradictory data was getting in the way of creating effective solutions. “There is a lack of proven effectiveness of school-based intervention,” he said. “A lot of our approach to change, when it comes to intervention, is intuitive and ad-hoc.”

One of the most basic questions in studies such as these - what dietary factors are related to obesity? - is one of the most difficult to answer. One study Baranowski related examined the diets and lifestyles of 10-year-olds in a Louisiana town over a period of 20 years, and what they found was ... nothing.

“There was no dietary variable that in any way accounted for differences in obesity over the years,” he said. “One thing, which I would have thought was a no-brainer, was looking at whether sweetened beverage consumption was linked to obesity. We just finished a literature review that showed no conclusive evidence of that connection. There were seven studies that



Dr. Tom Baranowski figures video games could help kids stay lean.

said yes, and six that said no. In a lot of cases, studies aren’t done very well. There are no controls for variables such as differences in other dietary elements or physical activity.”

One area where Baranowski does hold some optimism is in the development of computer games that are designed to teach children how to set physical activity and dietary goals. One, designed for Grade 4 students, encourages game-players to join a battle against invaders that are destroying the kingdom’s fruit and vegetable crops.

“We found that this game had kids eating one whole extra serving of fruits and

vegetables a day,” he said.

Another game, this time for Grade 7 students, entices players to join a group of rebels who discover that an evil overlord is keeping the population soft and malleable by keeping them in poor health.

The games also have a portion where a graphic demonstrates ‘energy balance’ to the child by calculating what they’ve eaten and how much physical activity they’ve had and creating a visual graphic to demonstrate where equilibrium lies. While there is an education component to the games, there is also a participatory element that gets the kids involved even when

“The games have kids set goals, whether that’s to complete a certain number of activities or eat more servings of fruits and vegetables. When they return to the game, if they didn’t complete the goals, they’re asked why.”

– Dr. Tom Baranowski

they’re not in front of the computer.

“The games have kids set goals, whether that’s to complete a certain number of activities or eat more servings of fruits and vegetables. When they return to the game, if they didn’t complete the goals, they’re asked why. Then they’re offered possible reasons why they may have failed to meet their goals, as well as solutions to overcoming those problems,” said Baranowski. “The games also design motivations based on the child’s stated values, whether those are to please their parents, to please their teachers, to have lots of friends or even to please God.”

“I think this is one of the waves of the future,” said Baranowski. “The game medium is so attractive to the kids.” ■



# talks & events

Submit talks and events to Lorraine Neumayer by 12 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>.** A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca).

## UNTIL MAY 27 2006

**Studio Theatre presents One Flea Spare by Naomi Wallace** Set in a virtually bare London Room, One Flea Spare sharply focuses on the natural forces induced by the Great Plague upon the human constructs of power, class and gender. The Snelgraves, an upper class couple are about to be released from a month-long quarantine period, but are imprisoned once again when two uninvited visitors, Bunce a sailor and Morse, a surreal all-knowing girl of 12 years old, burst into their home and their lives. Naomi Wallace's One Flea Spare is beautiful, harsh, and moving - brilliant political poetry for the stage. Advance tickets available through TIX on the Square 420-1757 or online at [www.tixonthesquare.ca](http://www.tixonthesquare.ca). Walk-up tickets available at the Timms Centre Box Office one hour prior to curtain, for that day's performance only. No performance Sunday, May 21, 2006. 8:00 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/drama/studiotheatre.cfm>

## UNTIL MAY 31 2006

**"Unmatched, Mixed and Unframed"-Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association** Opening reception: Sat, May 20, 1-4 p.m. Artistic flair abounds during the first three weeks of May when the Spring Program for Older Adults offers fresh ideas and new learning experiences at the University Extension Centre. From a wide choice of classes coordinated by the volunteer-run Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA), visual art is a popular choice and this year's students have been drawing and painting a gallery full of new images. A collective exhibition showcases the students' work in various mediums - watercolors, oils, acrylics, charcoal and ink. The general public is invited to join the art students of the Spring Program for Older Adults in a celebration of their work on exhibition at the Extension Centre Gallery, May 20 to 31. Extension Centre Gallery, 2nd Floor, University Extension Centre, 8303 - 112 Street. <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/liberalstudies>

## MAY 27 2006

**Saturday Walk with a Garden Horticulturist (Alpine)** Meet at the Shop-In-The-Garden at noon and tour the Alpine Garden and adjoining native plant areas, both in full bloom at this time. Horticulturist Linda Hewlett will guide the tour

and provide answers to all your questions! Regular admission rates apply. Phone (780) 987-2064 to book your spot and to enjoy a spring walk! 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/>

## MAY 28 2006

**Sunday Family Nature Walk (Spring)** Come and take a leisurely walk along the Bobby Dyde Nature Trail (2.5 km) with a guide who is familiar with the wildlife and vegetation along the way. This walk is geared to people of all ages and promises to be a most enjoyable way to spend the afternoon. Come and enjoy the beauty of the season with us! This event is free of charge, regular admission rates apply, however, there is limited space. Please register by calling (780) 987-0362. 1:30 - 3 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/>

## MAY 30 - JUN 17 2006

**Fast Forward 2006: Current Work by First Year Master of Fine Arts Students in the Department of Art & Design.** The Opening Reception for this exhibition will be held at the Fine Arts Building Gallery on Thursday, June 1, 2006, from 7 - 10 p.m. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Fine Arts Building Gallery, room 1-1 Fine Arts Building, 112 Street and 89 Ave, University of Alberta campus.

## MAY 30 - JUN 17 2006

**Kerry Harmer: Managing Product Durability- Implications for Sustainable Design Methodology (Master of Design in Industrial Design)** The Opening Reception for this exhibition will be held at the Fine Arts Building Gallery on Thursday, June 1, 2006, from 7 - 10 p.m. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Fine Arts Building Gallery, room 1-1 Fine Arts Building, 112 Street and 89 Ave, University of Alberta campus.

## MAY 30 2006

**25th Anniversary Celebration of the Engineering Co-op Program** This event will bring

together people who have experienced the benefits of Co-op as students and employers and will provide an opportunity to reconnect. 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC) . <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

## MAY 31 2006

**PHS Grand Rounds** Guest Speaker: Dr Wadieh Yacoub, Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Region, Health Canada; Director, Health Protection, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Alberta Region, Health Canada; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences "First Nations' Health in Alberta" 12 - 1 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

## JUN 1 2006

**ERA Workshops for Research Administrators** Join RSO and university administrative staff at this day-long series of workshops about research administration. Topics include: Research Administration 101, Eligible and Ineligible Expenditures and Applications, Hiring and Payment to Research Personnel, What's new at RSO, Policies and Procedures Relating to Research Administration, Leadership and Mentorship, Managing SSHRC Grants and Projects, Managing Health Sciences Grants and projects. For further details, including workshop descriptions, the schedule and how to register for individual sessions visit the "For Administrators" section of the RSO website. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 122/165 Education Centre . <http://www.rso.ualberta.ca/era.cfm>

**Fort McMurray Regional Alumni and Friends Reception** Join other Fort McMurray-area University of Alberta Engineering alumni and friends of the Faculty as we pay tribute to all of you who carry on the great tradition of the U of A Engineer. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre 530 MacKenzie Boulevard Fort McMurray, AB Timberline Room. <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

**Quirks and Quarks CBC Radio broadcast from Edmonton** *Quirks and Quarks*, Canada's premier radio science show, will host its once-a-year taped-live broadcast on the University of Alberta campus. Admission is free. The Timms Centre's capacity is 300 so come early to reserve your seat. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts. <http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/quirks/>

## JUN 2 - 4 2006

**Chigiri-e (10th annual show & demo)** Joan King invites you to experience her world of Chigiri-e. Exotic and unique pictures are created using torn, imported Japanese paper. This is truly an extraordinary art form! On-going demonstrations are in the classroom area. Regular admission rates apply. Contact Visitor Services (780) 987-3054 for further information. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/>

## JUN 2 2006

**Women's Words: Summer Writing Week Opening Reception with Special Guest Reading by Lorna Crozier** Includes readings by Lorie Miseck and Kerry Mulholland, two of the first SWW participants. Open to the general public (free admission) Room 2-36, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/womenswords>

**Why Editors Matter: The Role of the Editor in a Civil Society** "A Decade of Editing: Making Our Mark in Alberta" The Prairie Provinces Branch of the Editors' Association of Canada is celebrating its 10th anniversary. A panel discussion with special guests Rosemary Tanner, an Ontario science book editor and past president of EAC; Jill Wright, office of the mayor of Edmonton; and Linda Goyette, writer in residence, Stanley Milner Library Reception to follow. RSVP/information: Anita Jenkins, (780) 474-6656, 2 - 6 p.m. Room 2-36, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. <http://www.editors.ca/branches/prairies/index.html#edmonton>

## JUN 3 2006

**Saturday Walk with a Garden Horticulturist (Trees & Shrubs)** Meet at the Shop-In-The-Garden at noon and tour the Gardens extensive tree and shrub borders, many of them in full spring color at this time. Horticulturist Gordon Nielson will guide the tour and provide answers to all your questions! Regular admission rates apply. Phone (780) 9897-2064 to book your spot and enjoy a pre summer walk! 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/>

## JUN 4 2006

**Kurimoto Japanese Garden Spring Festival** The Consulate General of Japan, in partnership with the Devonian Botanic Garden is pleased to present a unique opportunity to celebrate Japanese culture in all its splendor. The Spring Festival will feature

Japanese cultural demonstrations for the entire family. Be sure to come early to enjoy each of the many activities available. Regular admission rates apply. Contact Visitor Services (780) 987-3054 for further information. 1 - 4 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian>

## JUN 5 2006

**Visiting Lecturer** Maurine E. Linder Professor of Dept. of Cell Biology & Physiology Director Molecular Cell Biology Graduate Program Washington University School of Medicine Title: "Mechanism and Functions of Protein Palmitoylation" 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building. <http://www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology>

**Distinguished Lecture - Computing Science** Dr. Judea Pearl, Department of Computer Science, UCLA will present a Distinguished Lecture entitled "The Mathematics of Causal Reasoning" Please join us for coffee and cookies at 10:30. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. ETL E1-001. <http://www.cs.ualberta.ca/events/dls/>

**PhD Thesis Defence** Maria Corvi Title: "Characterization of Carbamoyl Phosphate Synthetase 1 palmitoylation and development of a chemical biology approach to detect and identify new palmitoylated proteins" 12 - 1:00 p.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building. <http://www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology>

**Reading: from some of the contributors to "Standing Together: Women Speak Out About Violence and Abuse", edited by Linda Goyette** *Standing Together* is a collection of personal stories and poems written by Alberta women who have made the hardest decision: to stand up, to choose life, to take control, to search for peace and safety for themselves and their children. Speaking for themselves, in their own unforgettable words, these women offer a message of hope and inspiration to all of us. Evening includes music by local singer and songwriter Karla Anderson. 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Room 2-36, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/womenswords>

## JUN 6 2006

**Panel Discussion with Instructors from Women's Words: Summer Writing Week** Summer Writing Week instructors include: Lynn Coady, Linda Goyette, Faye Reineberg Holt, Myrna Kostash, Reinecke Lengelle, Carolyn Redl, Eunice Scarfe, Shirley Serviss, Janice Williamson, Sheri-D Wilson. This promises to be a lively discussion on instructors' reflections of their craft. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Room 2-36 University Extension Centre, 8303-112 Street. <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/womenswords>

## JUN 7 2006

**Spring Convocation** Spring Convocation ceremonies: 10 a.m., Faculty of Education (Elementary Education), School of Native Studies 3 p.m., Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

## JUN 8 2006

**Spring Convocation** Spring Convocation Ceremonies for: 10 a.m. Faculty of Engineering 3 p.m. Faculties of Education (Secondary, Adult and Diplomas in Education), Pharmacy and Physical Education and Recreation Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

**Convocation Breakfast** Dr. David Lynch, P.Eng., Dean, Faculty of Engineering and James Funk, Engineering Alumni Council Representative invite you to join them for a complimentary Convocation Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC). [www.engineering.ualberta.ca/events.cfm](http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/events.cfm)

**Lunch & Learn: Self Esteem** Self esteem is a cornerstone of our personal well-being, yet most of us have precious little. Explore the definition of self-esteem, characteristics of healthy self-esteem, the difference between self-confidence and self-esteem, and pathways to self-esteem. Register at the Learning Shop. 12 - 1 p.m. Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall. <http://www.learningshop.ualberta.ca/welcome.jsp>

**David Peikoff Research Lecture: Visual Word Recognition in Deaf ASL Signers** The David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Department of Educational Psychology University of Alberta invites you to a public lecture visual word recognition in deaf ASL Signers: A comparison of good vs poor readers presenter: Charlene Chamberlain, PhD University of North Dakota department of Communication Sciences & Disorders. Dr. Chamberlain will explain research that suggests phonological processing, particular, and word recognition skills, may not fully explain the differences between deaf good and poor readers. Other factors will be discussed, such as orthographic processing and general language proficiency. ASL/English interpretation and Real-Time captioning will be provided. Refreshments will be provided after the lecture. For further information: Contact Dr. Debra Russell 7 - 9 p.m. 129 Education

AHFMR

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*The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) administers one of Canada's leading programs supporting health-related research. AHFMR currently funds more than 230 Alberta-based biomedical and health researchers and more than 350 students and postdoctoral fellows. We are expanding our grants management team with the creation of a new position:*

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We are looking for an individual who will function as an integral part of the AHFMR management team. Qualifications include:

- Masters in a life sciences or health-related discipline or relevant experience
- Minimum of five years experience in a research administration environment
- Broad knowledge of the research funding environment in Canada
- Knowledge of trends and advances in the peer review of research
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good analytical abilities and process-oriented approach
- Ability to work with multiple demands and strict timeframes
- Broad-based computer skills and experience in a financial environment (budgets, financial modelling, etc.)

Resumes should be sent to Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, 1500, 10104 – 103 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 4A7, Attention: Marcy Pelessey. Closing date is June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



## JUN 9 2006

**Spring Convocation** Spring Convocation Ceremonies for: 10:00 a.m. Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry and Nursing time to be determined Faculty of Extension Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

**David Peikoff Chair Presents: Reading Disabled or Language Deprived Workshop** David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies, Alberta School for the Deaf and Connect Society present: Reading Disabled or Language Deprived? Bilingual education and literacy in deaf signing children Charlene Chamberlain communication sciences & disorders University of North Dakota The oft-reported statistic of the low overall reading achievement (i.e., the 4th grade reading level) in deaf students belies an important reality: Deaf signing children are bilingual language learners and it is inappropriate to compare them to monolingual hearing children. At the very least, they should only be compared to other bilingual learners. I will present empirical data that will demonstrate that ASL proficiency is not just "correlated" with reading comprehension. For further information, please contact Deb Russell 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Alberta School for the Deaf, 6240 - 113 Street, Edmonton, AB.

## JUN 12 2006

**Spring Convocation** Spring Convocation ceremonies for: 10 a.m. Faculty of Arts (general degrees) 3 p.m. Faculties of Arts (Honors and all other degrees) and Business Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

**Recruitment Seminar** Dr. Greg Pyle, Department of Biology, Nipissing University will be presenting a seminar entitled "Making 'non-scents' of scented waters: metal effects on chemosensation in aquatic animals". Dr. Pyle is a candidate for the Assistant/Associate Professor position in Fish Biology in the Department of Biological Sciences. Hosted by Dr. Bill Tonn. 11 a.m. - 12 noon. 3-46 Chemical/Materials Engineering. [http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news\\_events](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news_events)

## JUN 13 2006

**Spring Convocation** Spring Convocation Ceremonies for: 10 a.m. Faculties of Science (general degrees), Law and Faculte Saint-Jean 3 p.m. Faculties of Science (honors and specialization degrees) and Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca>

## JUN 15 2006

**Camp fyrefly 2006: Canada's largest LGBTQ Youth Leadership Retreat** We are pleased to invite youth to attend Camp fyrefly, which is our 3rd annual lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, and queer (LGBTQ) youth leadership retreat. Youth from across Canada will join us for four days of learning, fun, and making new friends. Camp fyrefly stands for fostering, Youth, resiliency, energy, fun, leadership, yeah! To download copies of our camp application package, sponsorship information, and camp postcard, please see the link below or visit <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/campfyrefly> Contact us if you have any questions: Camp.fyrefly@ualberta.ca or call (780) 492-0772. All donations in support of the camp are tax deductible. Help make this summer one an LGBTQ youth will never forget! If your organization or youth group would like printed copies of our camp materials (camp postcard, application package, and sponsorship prospectus) for distribution, please contact us with your mailing address and we will be happy to send you the requested information. <http://www.ualberta.ca/~outisin/>

**Recruitment Seminar** Dr. Jacques Rinhard, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, will present a seminar entitled "Trophic transfer of polyunsaturated fatty acids in Lake Michigan food web: implications for yellow perch recruitment success." Dr. Rinhard is a candidate for the Assistant/Associate Professor position in Fish Biology in the Department of Biological Sciences. Hosted by Dr. Mike Belosevic. 11 a.m. - 12 noon p.m. 3-46 Chemical/Materials Engineering. [http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news\\_events/](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news_events/)

# positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit [www.hrs.ualberta.ca](http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca).

## SESSIONAL TEACHING POSITION EDUCATIONAL COMPUTING AUGUSTANA FACULTY

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in an Educational Computing Course for the term January 1, 2007 through April 30, 2007.

This position involves responsibility for the teaching of EDC 202W, Technology Tools for Teaching and Learning (lecture plus two labs - lectures meet for three times per week for one hour each meeting and the labs each meet once a week for one hour).

Augustana Faculty, located in Camrose, 90 km southeast of Edmonton, is committed to building on its reputation for rigorous, high-quality teaching in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences, and, in doing so, providing a distinctive undergraduate experience for students within one of Canada's leading universities. Augustana encourages applications from individuals who will share that commitment to teaching in a collegial, small-campus setting. Successful candidates will be expected to hold a minimum of a Master's degree, though a PhD is preferred, and to have recent experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.

Applications, including curriculum vitae, degree transcripts, evidence of successful teaching, as well as names and full contact information of at least three references, should be submitted as soon as possible to:

Dr. Neil Haave, Chair, Department of Science  
Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta  
4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3  
Phone: (780) 679-1506, Fax: (780) 679-1590  
e-mail: [nhaave@ualberta.ca](mailto:nhaave@ualberta.ca).

Applications will be reviewed in an ongoing process until the position is filled.

## SESSIONAL POSITION BIOLOGY AUGUSTANA FACULTY

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in Biology for the term September 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007.

This position involves responsibility for the teaching of: Fall - BIO 110 A,B,C, & D, Evolution Biological Diversity (lab demonstrator); Winter - BIO 253 Q, R &

S, Principles of Ecology (lab demonstrator).

Augustana Faculty, located in Camrose, 90-km southeast of Edmonton, is committed to building on its reputation for rigorous, high-quality teaching in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences, and, in doing so, providing a distinctive undergraduate experience for students within one of Canada's leading universities. Augustana encourages applications from individuals who will share that commitment to teaching in a collegial, small-campus setting. Successful candidates will be expected to hold a minimum of a Master's degree, though a PhD is preferred, and to have recent experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.

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Dr. Neil Haave, Chair, Department of Science  
Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta  
4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3  
Phone: (780) 679-1506, Fax: (780) 679-1590  
e-mail: [nhaave@ualberta.ca](mailto:nhaave@ualberta.ca).

Applications will be reviewed in an ongoing process until the position is filled.

## SESSIONAL POSITION STATISTICS AUGUSTANA FACULTY

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in Statistics for the term September 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. This position involves responsibility for the teaching of STA 213F, Statistical Methods (lecture and lab).

Augustana Faculty, located in Camrose, 90-km southeast of Edmonton, is committed to building on its reputation for rigorous, high-quality teaching in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences, and, in doing so, providing a distinctive undergraduate experience for students within one of Canada's leading universities. Augustana encourages applications from individuals who will share that commitment to teaching in a collegial, small-campus setting. Successful candidates will be expected to hold a minimum of a Master's degree, though a PhD is preferred, and to have recent experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.

Applications, including curriculum vitae, degree transcripts, evidence of successful teaching,

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**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

## ADVISORY SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH):

### Input from the Community

A search for Vice-President (Research) is currently underway. Dr. Gary Kachanoski, Vice-President (Research), has advised President Indira Samarasekera that he will conclude his current term in that position effective June 30, 2007. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Jim Edwards, President Samarasekera has therefore asked for the establishment of an Advisory Search Committee to advise on the selection of a Vice-President (Research).

GFC and Board policy provides that members of the University community have an opportunity to contribute to the search process. Individuals are welcome to express their views on the priorities of Vice-President (Research); including current issues, leadership, and the future direction of the Office of Vice-President (Research). An anonymized summary of the feedback will be provided to the Advisory Search Committee during the search process. The Committee invites you to submit your comments and/or suggestions, in confidence, by 4:30 pm, June 2, 2006 to:

President Indira Samarasekera  
c/o Marcia Lang, Secretary to the Advisory Search Committee  
3-1 University Hall  
University of Alberta, T6G 2J9  
phone: (780) 492-4383  
email: [marcia.lang@ualberta.ca](mailto:marcia.lang@ualberta.ca)  
fax: (780) 492-9265

**Please note that the membership of the Advisory Search Committee will be confirmed by May 15, 2006 and posted on the President's website at [www.president.ualberta.ca](http://www.president.ualberta.ca).**

as well as names and full contact information of at least three references, should be submitted as soon as possible to:

Dr. Neil Haave, Chair, Department of Science  
Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta  
4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3  
Phone: (780) 679-1506, Fax: (780) 679-1590  
e-mail: [nhaave@ualberta.ca](mailto:nhaave@ualberta.ca)  
Applications will be reviewed in an ongoing process until the position is filled

### SESSIONAL POSITION ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES/ GEOGRAPHY AUGUSTANA FACULTY

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in Environmental Studies/Geography for the term January 1, 2007 through April 30, 2007.

This position involves responsibility for the teaching of Environmental Studies/Geography 120, Human Activities & Natural Environment (lecture three hours per week).

Augustana Faculty, located in Camrose, 90-km southeast of Edmonton, is committed to building on its reputation for rigorous, high-quality teaching in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences, and, in doing so, providing a distinctive undergraduate experience for students within one of Canada's leading universities. Augustana encourages applications from individuals who will share that commitment to teaching in a collegial, small-campus setting. Successful candidates will be expected to hold a minimum of a Master's degree, though a PhD is preferred, and to have recent experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.

Applications, including curriculum vitae, degree transcripts, evidence of successful teaching, as well as names and full contact information of at least three references, should be submitted as soon as possible to:

Dr. Neil Haave, Chair, Department of Science  
Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta  
4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3  
Phone: (780) 679-1506, Fax: (780) 679-1590  
e-mail: [nhaave@ualberta.ca](mailto:nhaave@ualberta.ca)  
Applications will be reviewed in an ongoing process until the position is filled.

### SESSIONAL POSITION GEOGRAPHY AUGUSTANA FACULTY

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta, invites applications for a sessional teaching position in Geography for the term January 1, 2007 through April 30, 2007. This position involves responsibility for the teaching of Geography 231, Climatology (lecture three hours per week plus two lab sections each meeting three hours per week).

Augustana Faculty, located in Camrose, 90-km southeast of Edmonton, is committed to building on its reputation for rigorous, high-quality teaching in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences, and, in doing so, providing a distinctive undergraduate experience for students within one of Canada's leading universities. Augustana encourages applications from individuals who will share that commitment to teaching in a collegial, small-campus setting. Successful candidates will be expected to hold a minimum of a master's degree, though a PhD is preferred, and to have recent experience in university teaching at the undergraduate level.

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4901 46 Avenue, Camrose, AB T4V 2R3  
Phone: (780) 679-1506, Fax: (780) 679-1590  
e-mail: [nhaave@ualberta.ca](mailto:nhaave@ualberta.ca)  
Applications will be reviewed in an ongoing process until the position is filled.

### POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP FACULTY OF NURSING

A post-doctoral fellow opportunity is available at the University of Alberta, through the Faculty of Nursing. The successful candidate will work directly with Dr. Donna Wilson and an interdisciplinary, multi-provincial emerging team with international collaborators on a study of rural palliative/end-of-life care in Canada.

The results of this research will generate knowledge for rural policy and services generation, and ultimately the delivery of quality services to dying people and their family caregivers in rural communities. Building knowledge to support rural care providers in delivering quality services is another goal.

The successful candidate will have a background in qualitative research and analysis methods, with a PhD in hand or will have submitted their PhD for defense. Doctoral training should be in social sciences, health care, or another relevant discipline, preferably one with an emphasis on palliative care, health care or rurality. The fellowship is initially for one year, starting July 1, 2006, and has the potential to extend to two years. The position will be remunerated benefits at the CIHR PDF wage

and benefit rates.

The position will remain open until filled. Please send a cover letter addressing the criteria in this advertisement, curriculum vitae, and three letters of reference to:  
Dr. Donna Wilson, RN, PhD, Faculty of Nursing  
Third Floor CSB, University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2G3  
[donna.wilson@ualberta.ca](mailto:donna.wilson@ualberta.ca)  
(780) 492-5574, Fax (780) 492-2551

### CHAIR DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

The Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics at the University of Alberta invites applications for the position of Chair, Department of Human Ecology.

The Department of Human Ecology is home to 12 full-time faculty members who conduct research on aging, parent-child relationships, vulnerable youth and families, protective clothing, material culture and design and aesthetics. Faculty members hold more than \$15 million in research funding, either individually or collaboratively with other researchers. With an annual operating budget of approximately \$1.7 million, this student-centred, research intensive department offers Masters and PhD programs in Family Ecology and Practice; Human Ecology and Aging; and Textiles and Clothing. Undergraduate degrees are offered with majors in Family Ecology and Textiles & Clothing. The department is home to a state-of-the-art protective clothing and equipment research facility, textile and apparel research laboratories, design studios, a social sciences research suite (including focus group, and parent-child observation laboratories), and a world-renowned clothing and textile collection that supports teaching and research.

The department seeks a chair committed to securing additional resources to support continued growth and excellence in teaching and research. The successful candidate will have an understanding of the human ecosystem perspective and will appreciate and support the diversity of scholarship in the department that ranges across the physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, and fine arts. The chair will bring vision, inspired leadership, strong strategic planning skills, and organizational and management skills. The chair will be a team builder and have a supportive and open administrative style. The successful candidate will have a doctorate and a strong research program of international renown in an area complementing or related to the department's areas of research strength. The successful candidate also will have a superior record of teaching and graduate student supervision.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, the names of three references, and a two-page vision statement for this position, may be sent to:

Dr. John Kennelly, Dean  
Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics  
University of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P5

Review of applications will commence in May 2006; however, the competition will remain open until the position is filled. The start date is negotiable.

### POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN LABORATORY MEDICINE & PATHOLOGY FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Laboratory (start date to be June 1, 2006). The appointment will be for a two-year period.

The successful application will possess a PhD in an area related to genetics, molecular biology or biochemistry.

This individual will participate in projects that are both basic and translational research in nature in the area of breast and prostate cancer genetics and will involve:

- Identification of associations in gene polymorphisms / loci in case-control DNA samples, elucidation of genetic, molecular and biochemical mechanisms underlying breast and prostate cancers.
  - Provide guidance for students and technologists
  - Some supervisory responsibilities
  - Work in a team environment
  - Generate and test hypotheses
- Requirements for this position:
- PhD in genetics, molecular biology or biochemistry and publications in a field relevant to the required skills
  - Sophisticated expertise and considerable experience in molecular biology
  - Understanding of the application of statistical analysis tools to molecular genetics
  - Genotyping using high density Affymetrix SNP chips and fine mapping of loci using Pyrosequencing genotyping platform would be an asset, but not a prerequisite
  - Knowledgeable in the application of techniques such as PCR, isolation of genomic DNA, cell culture, protein purification and immunoblotting
  - Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work in a team
  - Capacity for independent pursuit of project
  - Intellectual curiosity and initiative



For further information about this position, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Sambasivarao Damaraju (sambasiv@cancerboard.ab.ca). Applicants are encouraged to submit curriculum vitae, brief descriptions of research interests and the names of three references (including contact information) to:

Femka Williams (femkawil@cancerboard.ab.ca)  
Cross Cancer Institute, Room 2244  
11560 University Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 1Z2  
This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified.

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## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RENT

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**RIVERBEND - THE UPLANDS**, Gorgeous executive condo in prestigious complex, gated community. Coach home style, 2,000 sq ft on one level, 2 bdrms + den and 2 full baths, huge designer kitchen, formal dining room, large living room wood burning fireplace. Immediate possession, \$1,500/mo includes all utilities. Call Janet Fraser 441-6441 Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp. Email jennfra@interbaun.com.

**RIVERBEND - BRANDER GARDENS** The Hearthstone\* Furnished 3 Bdrm, 2 storey townhouse, single garage, superb quiet location near river valley & Fort Edmonton. \$1,500/Mo includes all utilities. Available September 1/06 until April 1/07. Call Janet Fraser 441-6441 Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp. Email jennfra@interbaun.com.

**ROYAL GARDENS** – CLASSY FURNISHED BUNGALOW, 3 Bdrm On main, substantially upgraded. hardwood floors, quiet location near Richard Secord School and many other excellent schools. Close to Southgate Shopping Centre and main bus route. Partially finished basement. July 1st possession. \$1,900/mth including utilities except phone and cable. Call Janet Fraser for showings (780) 441-6441. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Email jennfra@interbaun.com.

**BELGRAVIA – SABBATICAL – FULLY FURNISHED BUNGALOW**- exceptionally spacious, hardwood floors, 3 bdrm, finished basement. \$1,500/mo. Available Aug 15/06 to Dec 31/06. Call Janet Fraser for showings (780) 441-6441. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Email jennfra@interbaun.com.

**HOLIDAY RENTALS MEDIEVAL HOUSE OR STUDIO APARTMENT** South of France near Montpellier (780) 433-9602, salliejohnson@shaw.ca. **FURNISHED SABBATICAL HOUSE**: excellent, 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, 2,500 sq. ft. Close to very good schools, airport, UofA, shopping, restaurants and other amenities. Blue Quill/Heritage area. July 06-July 07. (780) 435-0533, peter.boxall@ualberta.ca.

**TWO BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS** quiet high-rise condominium adjacent to UofA. (Claridge House 11027 – 87 Avenue) 7 appliances, in-suite laundry, swimming pool (underground heated parking available), \$1,350/month includes utilities. Available August 1, 2006. Phone 430-6797.

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**TWO STOREY DUPLEX / TOWNHOUSE** with attached carport in a wonderful quiet close with lots of kids - Ideal for visiting professor, family, or mature student - ~1,100 sq ft with 3 good-sized bedrooms upstairs (huge master). Developed basement including newly renovated bathroom with shower, rec room, and den. 2 1/2 bathrooms. Large back yard with great deck and trees for privacy. Shed. Fireplace, 5 appliances. 2 blocks from pretty ravine, playground, sports field. 5-10 minute walk from 2 grocery stores, YMCA, ice arenas, banks, video store, and coffee shops. 5 minute walk to major bus station with frequent express bus runs to UofA, downtown (~20 min ride). 45 minute bike ride to UofA. Rent \$1,100/ month. Utilities not included. ~August 2006 - June 2007. Tracy - 433-4770.

**FREE RENT: HOUSE/CAT SITTER WANTED FOR JULY-AUGUST**. Large, sunny bungalow in Pleasantview. 15-minute bike ride from the university. July 4th to late August. Call 461-1856 or email: nelsonlauzon@hotmail.com.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

**GRANDVIEW** - executive 6 bedroom raised bungalow near university. Pictures and virtual tours at www.comfree.com Edmonton Code 5842. Call 436-2663.

**VACATION HOME** - Solitude, fronts Tawatinaw River Valley. 10 acres, small streams, heavily treed. 2 BR house, plus large artist's studio/guest house. Adjoins privately-owned ecological area. Property buyer specifications exclude off-road vehicles and hunting. Asking \$194,000. Phyllis Frick, Agent, Jarvis Realty, Westlock, AB; Phone: 780-307-1209; email: pfrick@telus.net.

## ACCOMMODATIONS WANTED

**WANTED - A HOME TO RENT TO OWN** or purchase in north Windsor Park. Alice 451-2383.

**HOUSE-SITTER AVAILABLE** – Going on sabbatical and/or to teach in another country etc? I'm honest, reliable, mature nonsmoker. Can provide references. Marlowe at marlowem@shaw.ca.

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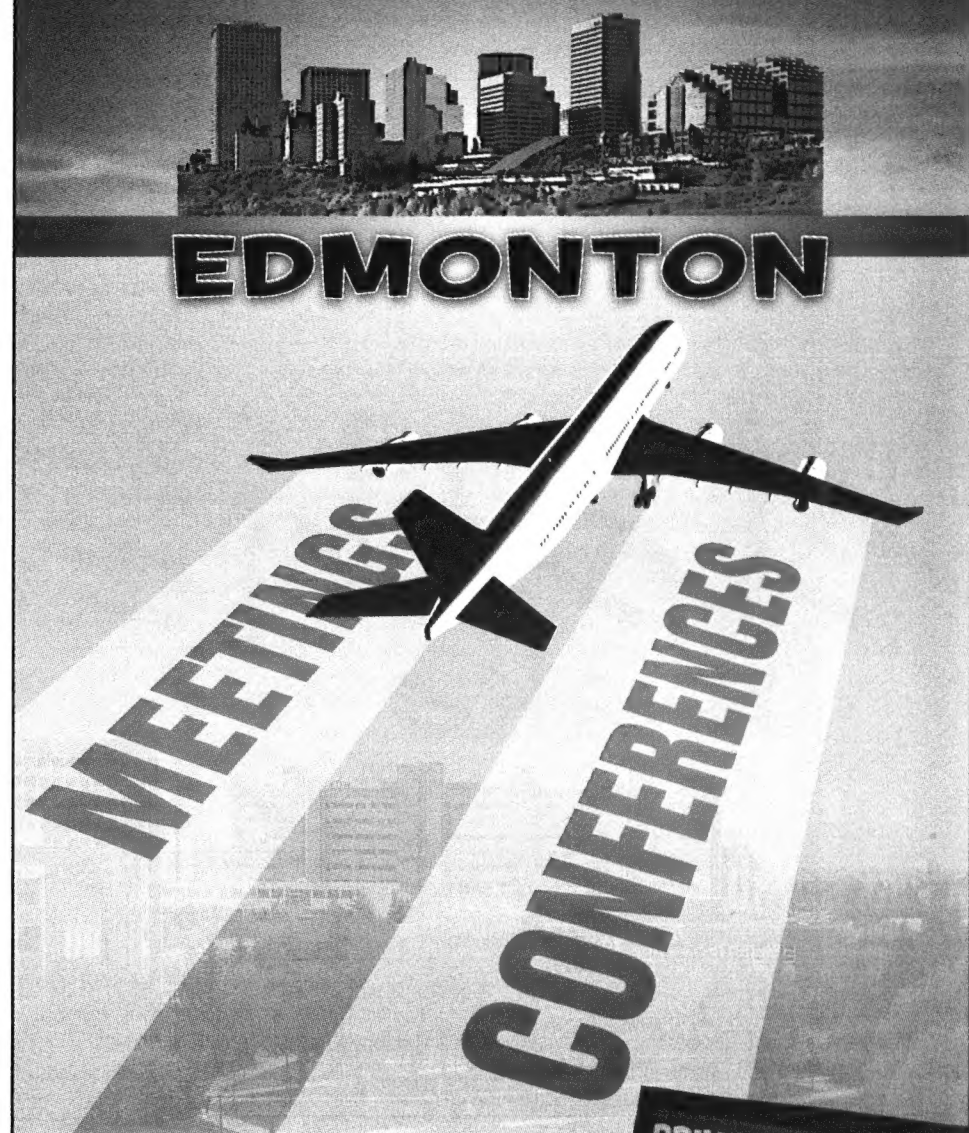
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# the clothes make the play

## The costumes of One Flea Spare

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Set in London in 1665, *One Flea Spare* is a gritty examination of power, class and gender.

Produced this month as part of the University of Alberta's Studio Theatre line-up, the play revolves around Mr. William Snelgrave (John Wright) and his wife Darcy Snelgrave (Sandra Nicholls), an upper-class couple approaching the end of a month-long quarantine in their home, when two uninvited visitors – a fugitive sailor and a servant girl – render them trapped in their home once again.

According to director Andrea Boyd, a U of A MFA student, the ideas behind the play are relevant to today's world. But while the themes are timeless, great care was taken to transport audiences to 17th century England.

Costume designer and U of A MFA student Snezana Pesic says the costumes were carefully designed in order to be true to historical fact, the nature of the play's characters, as well as to her own artistic expression.

"I do a lot of thinking about what I would like to do, and what would be my own personal expression," said Pesic of her artistic process. "I usually look at paintings of the period, and then do sketches of the costumes to get more freedom in my hand to do more sketches."

Having worked as a costume designer in Serbia before coming to the U of A for her MFA, Pesic is well-acquainted with the dress of different historical periods. However, a great deal of research was required for this play to make sure her

costumes closely fit the clothing of the period. So while examining paintings was a natural place to start, Pesic explained that the costumes for *One Flea Spare* required a great deal of reading.

"You can't find everything in paintings, smaller things like watches and things," she explained. "And you need to read about how they use it."

The tiniest details, like the location of buttons or pockets (on the inside or outside of a vest, for instance) can't be neglected. While seemingly minute, these are critical details that can affect how an actor plays a role.

"It helps actors to finish their research about the character that they play. It's the last thing they get (before they go on stage)," said Pesic. ■



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page

Costume designer Snezana Pesic with two of the costumes she designed for *One Flea Spare*.